三国志 47

濡水の戦い

横山光輝

希望コミックス 142

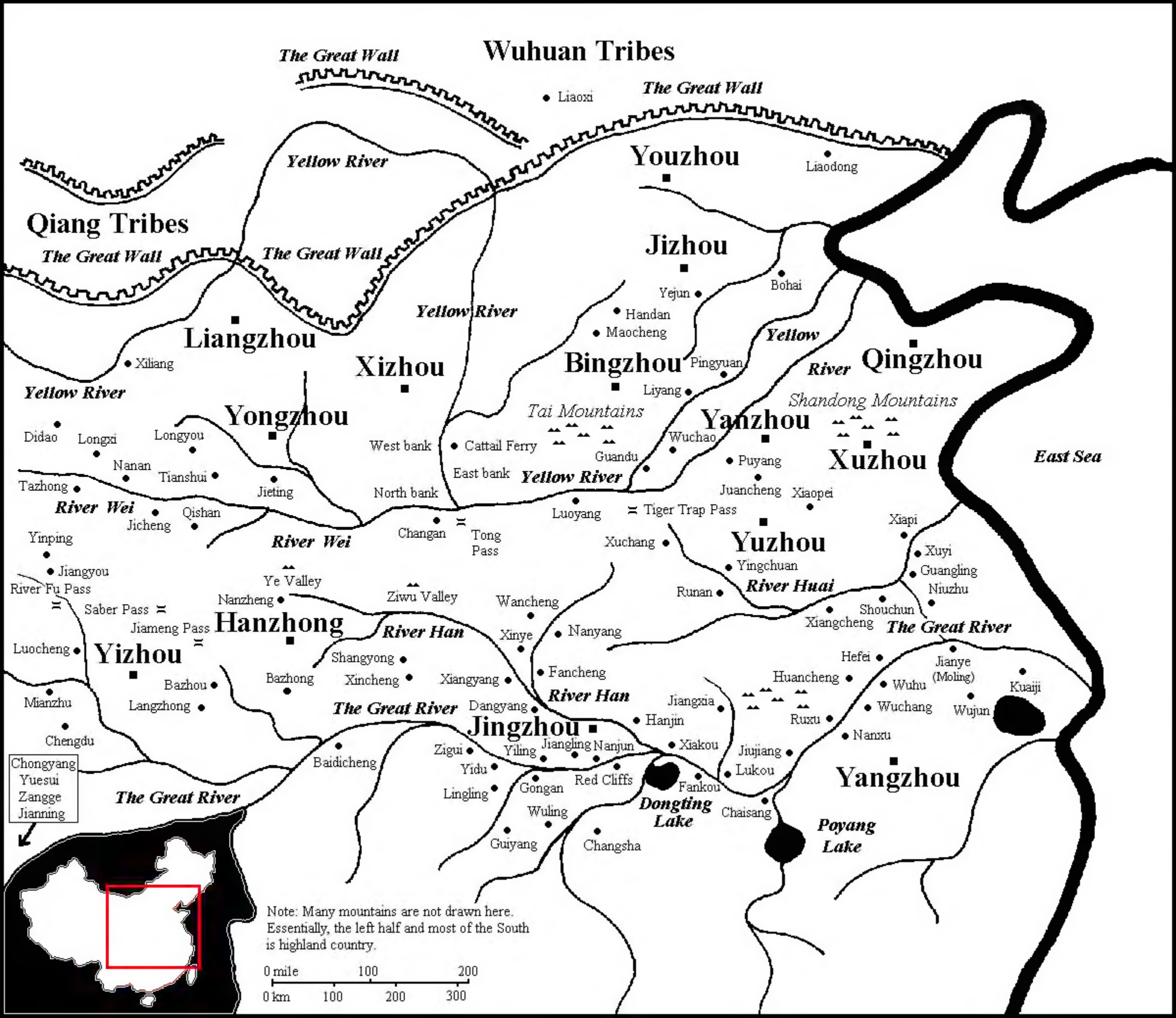
SANGOKUSHI

47

BATTLE ALONG LU RIVER

ZHUGE LIANG
KONGMING

YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. RISES TO BECOME KING OF WEI BUT DECLINES TO BECOME EMPEROR HIMSELF. PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS IN VOLUME 42.

CAO HONG:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.

CAO PI:
ELDEST SON OF CAO CAO. SUCCEEDS TO KING OF WEI AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH AND SOON DETHRONES THE LAST HAN EMPEROR TO BECOME AN EMPEROR OF A NEW DYNASTY.

CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A MAID TO WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19. SERVES ALONGSIDE HIS FATHER UNTIL THEIR DEATH IN VOLUME 42.

GUAN XING:
GUAN YU'S SECOND SON, WHO BECOMES A PROMINENT SHU OFFICER AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. AFTER THE FAILED SIEGE ON FANCHENG, HE IS EVENTUALLY CAUGHT BY WU FORCES AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT DEFECTS TO LIU BEI IN VOLUME 28. FALLS IN BATTLE AGAINST WU FORCES IN VOLUME 43.

HUA XIN:
WEI MINISTER WHO RISES TO BECOME CHANCELLOR OF WEI UNDER CAO PI'S REIGN.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. HE BECOMES AN EMPEROR AND ESTABLISHES A SUCCESOR-DYNASTY TO HAN IN VOLUME 43.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21. HE IS UNFORTUNATELY EXECUTED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 43 AFTER DENYING AID TO GUAN YU.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.

LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.

LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU MENG:
FIRECE WU GENERAL, WHO AT LAST CONQUERS JINGZHOU FOR SUN QUAN, CAPTURING GUAN YU IN DOING SO. UNFORTUNATELY DIES TO A SUDDEN ILLNESS AFTER GUAN YU'S EXECUTION IN VOLUME 42, CAUSING SOME TO THINK HE WAS CURSED.

LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

LU XUN:
TALENTED WU OFFICIAL WHO QUICKLY RISES TO FAVOUR AFTER SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING THE CONQUEST OF JINGZHOU.

MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.

MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.

MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG. HE LATER DEFECTS TO WEI IN VOLUME 43, AFTER REALIZING HE WOULD BE KILLED IN SHU TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG. PERISHES IN THE BATTLE OF FANCHENG AGAINST GUAN YU IN VOLUME 41.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH-LANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.

SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.

SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.

XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG BAO:
ELDEST SON OF ZHANG FEI, WHO RISES TO PROMINENCE AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU. HIS TEMPER EVENTUALLY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM, WHEN HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS SUBORDINATES IN VOLUME 43.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.

ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).

ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE. COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER LEARNING GUAN YU WAS EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 47
BATTLE ALONG LU RIVER

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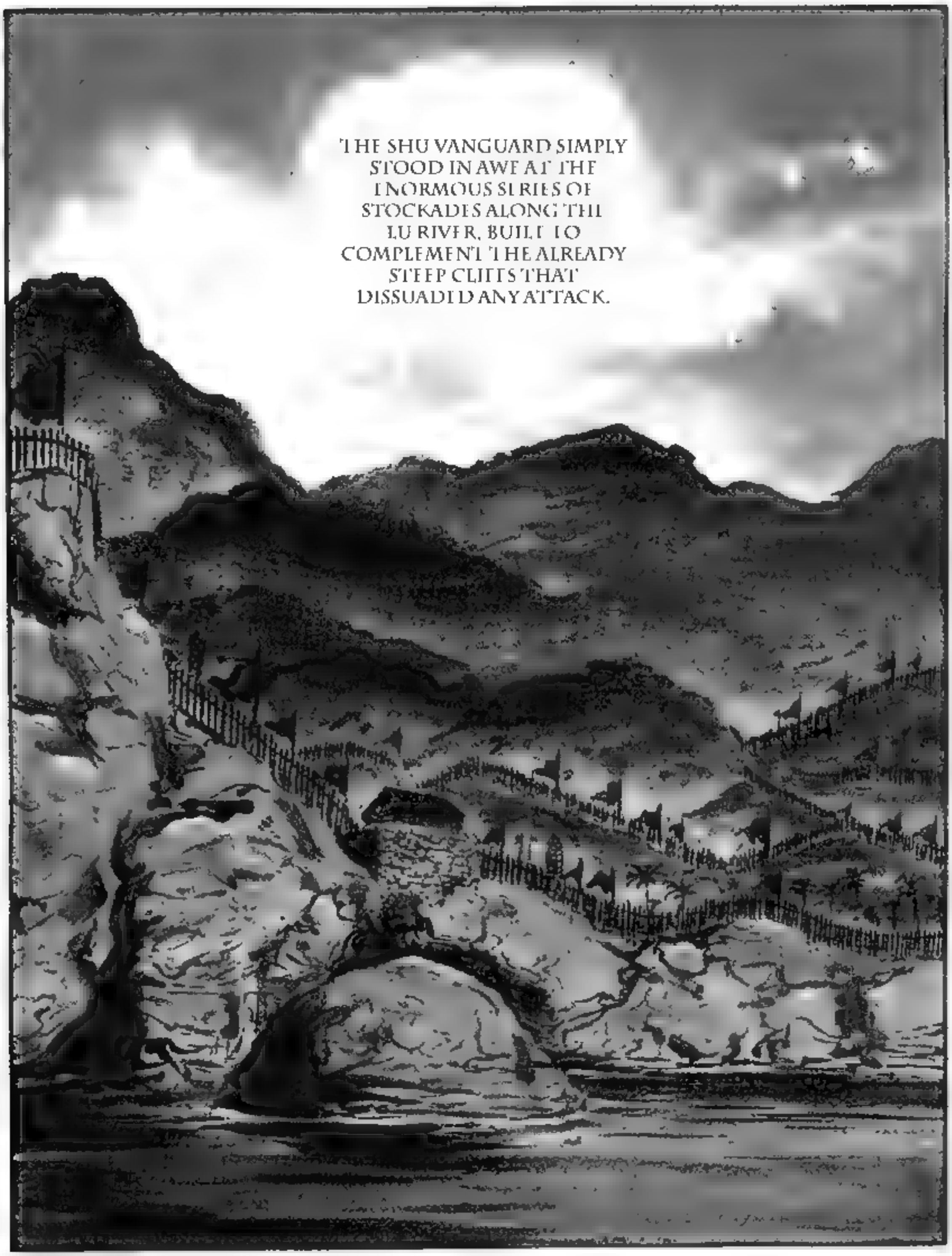
〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

TOXIC RIVER


THE SHU VANGUARD SIMPLY STOOD IN AWE AT THE ENORMOUS SERIES OF STOCKADES ALONG THE LU RIVER, BUILT TO COMPLEMENT THE ALREADY STEEP CLIFFS THAT DISSUADED ANY ATTACK.

WELL BUILT, INDEED.

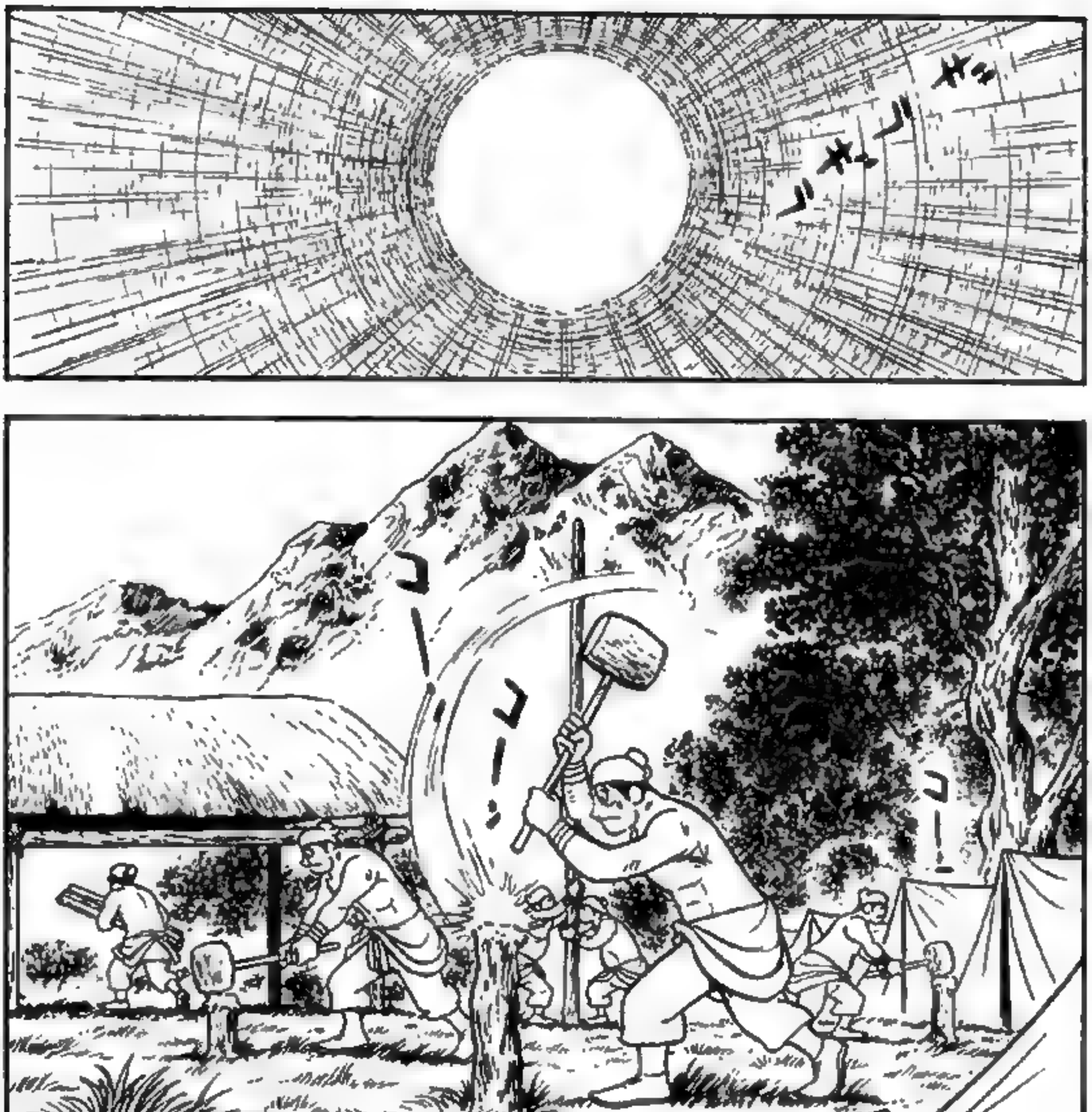
FOR THE TIME BEING, WITHDRAW 100 LI FROM HERE AND SET UP CAMPS.

YES, THIS MAY TURN INTO A BATTLE OF ATTRITION...

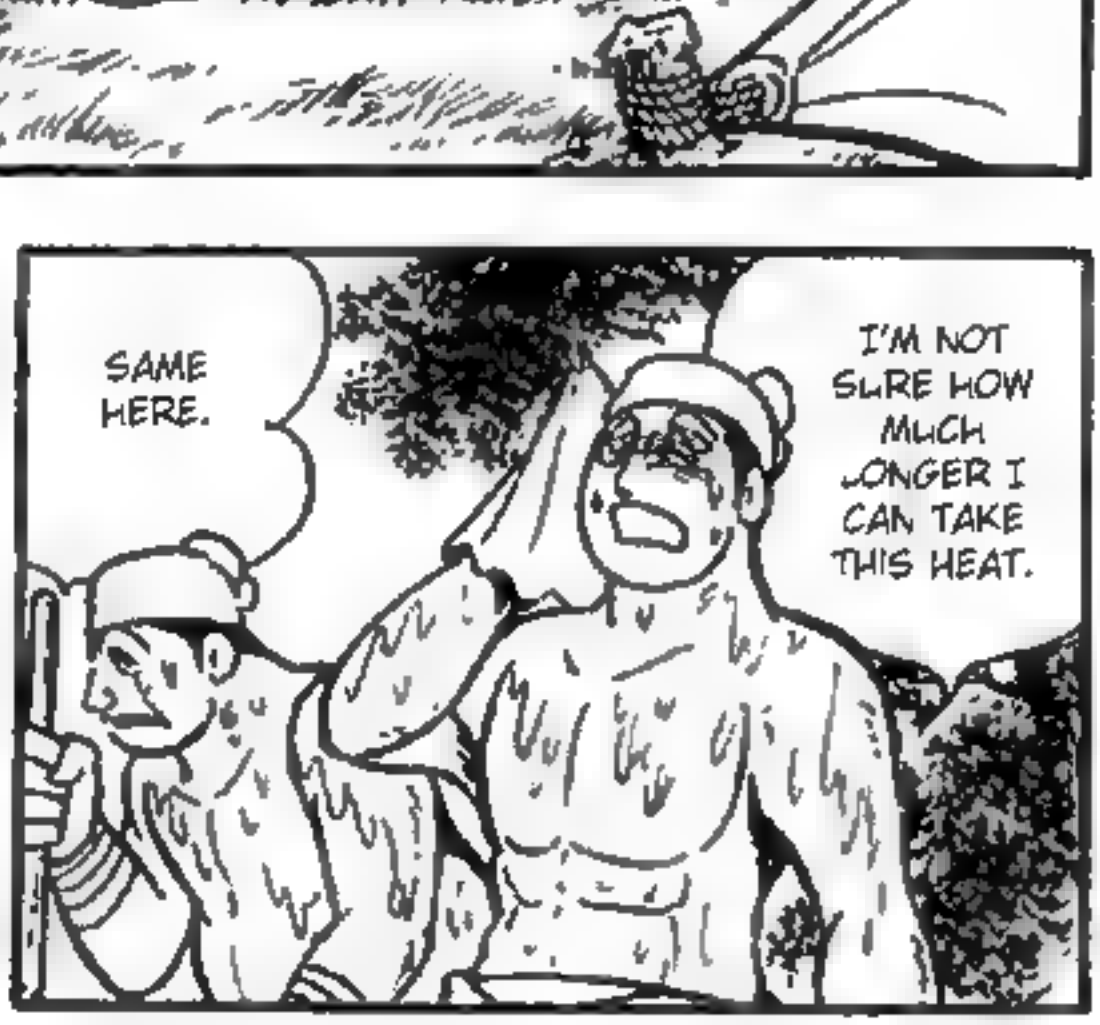
THIS WILL MAKE IT QUITE DIFFICULT TO ATTACK THEIR POSITION, SIR.

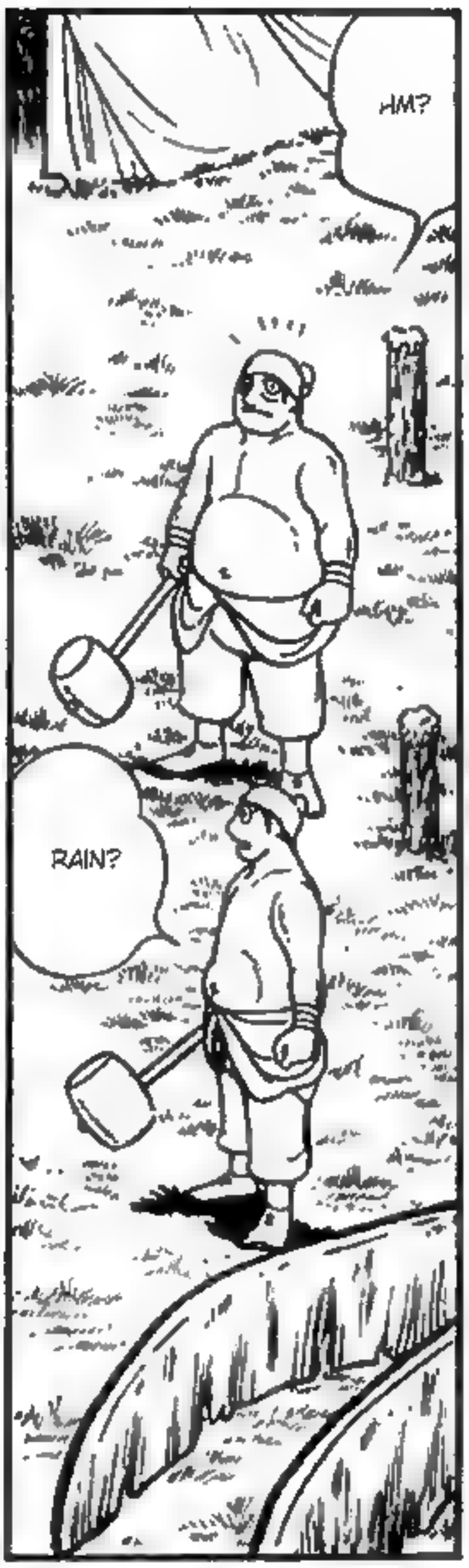
YES, SIR.
YES, CHANCELLOR.
PICK HIGH GROUNDS NEAR THE TREES FOR SHADES SO THE SOLDIERS CAN SLEEP IN PEACE. AS ALWAYS, BE WARY OF ANY SIGNS OF DISEASES.

趙肯



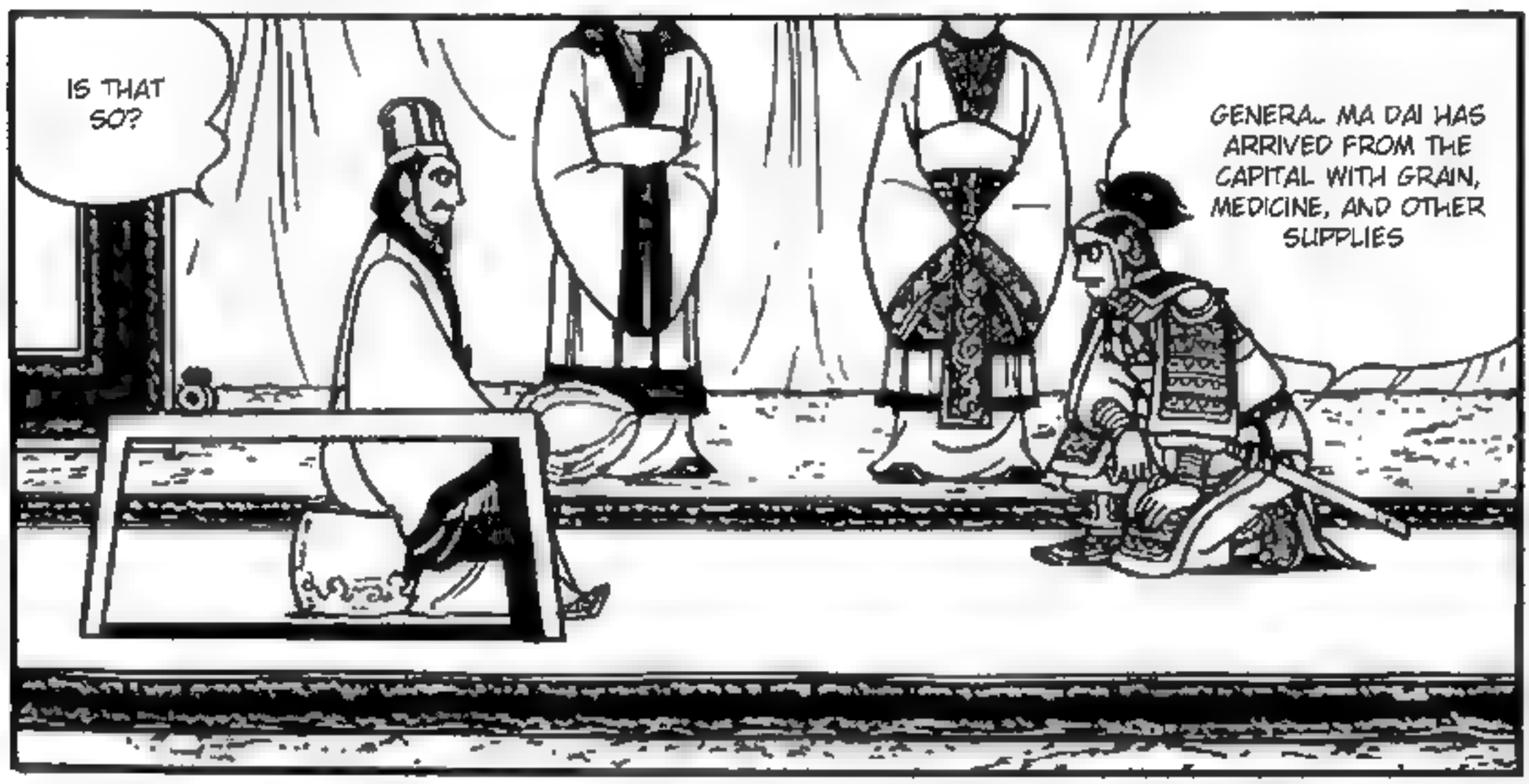
YOU SAW THOSE RAMPARTS. NOT GONNA BE EASY TO TAKE THEM AT ALL.
HOW LONG ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STAY PUT AND GLARE AT THE ENEMIES FOR?


SAME HERE.
I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN TAKE THIS HEAT.


HM?
RAIN?

YUP, IT'S RAINING.

THANK HEAVENS WE CAN TAKE A BREAK FROM THE HEAT THIS WAY.
I'M SURPRISED IT RAINS THIS MUCH EVERY SINGLE DAY DOWN HERE.


IS THAT SO?
GENERAL MA DAI HAS ARRIVED FROM THE CAPITAL WITH GRAIN, MEDICINE, AND OTHER SUPPLIES

I COME AT THE HEAD OF SUPPLY WAGONS FROM THE CAPITAL, CHANCELLOR.

3000, SIR.

BY THE WAY, HOW MANY TROOPS DID YOU COME WITH?

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THEM ALL THE WAY HERE.

AS YOU MAY HAVE OBSERVED ALREADY, OUR ARMY HERE HAS BEEN IN A STALEMATE FOR HALF A MONTH.

3000, HMM.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE CANNOT SIMPLY CAMP OUT HERE FOREVER.

MY TROOPS ARE SHU'S TROOPS THEY ARE YOURS TO COMMAND.

I WOULD LIKE TO BORROW YOUR STRENGTH TO REMEDY OUR CURRENT SITUATION IF POSSIBLE. .

I WANT YOU TO PRETEND TO RETURN BACK TO THE CAPITAL BUT SECRETLY CROSS THE LU RIVER.

EXCELLENT! I KNOW YOU'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED, BUT I NEED YOU AND YOUR MEN TO TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

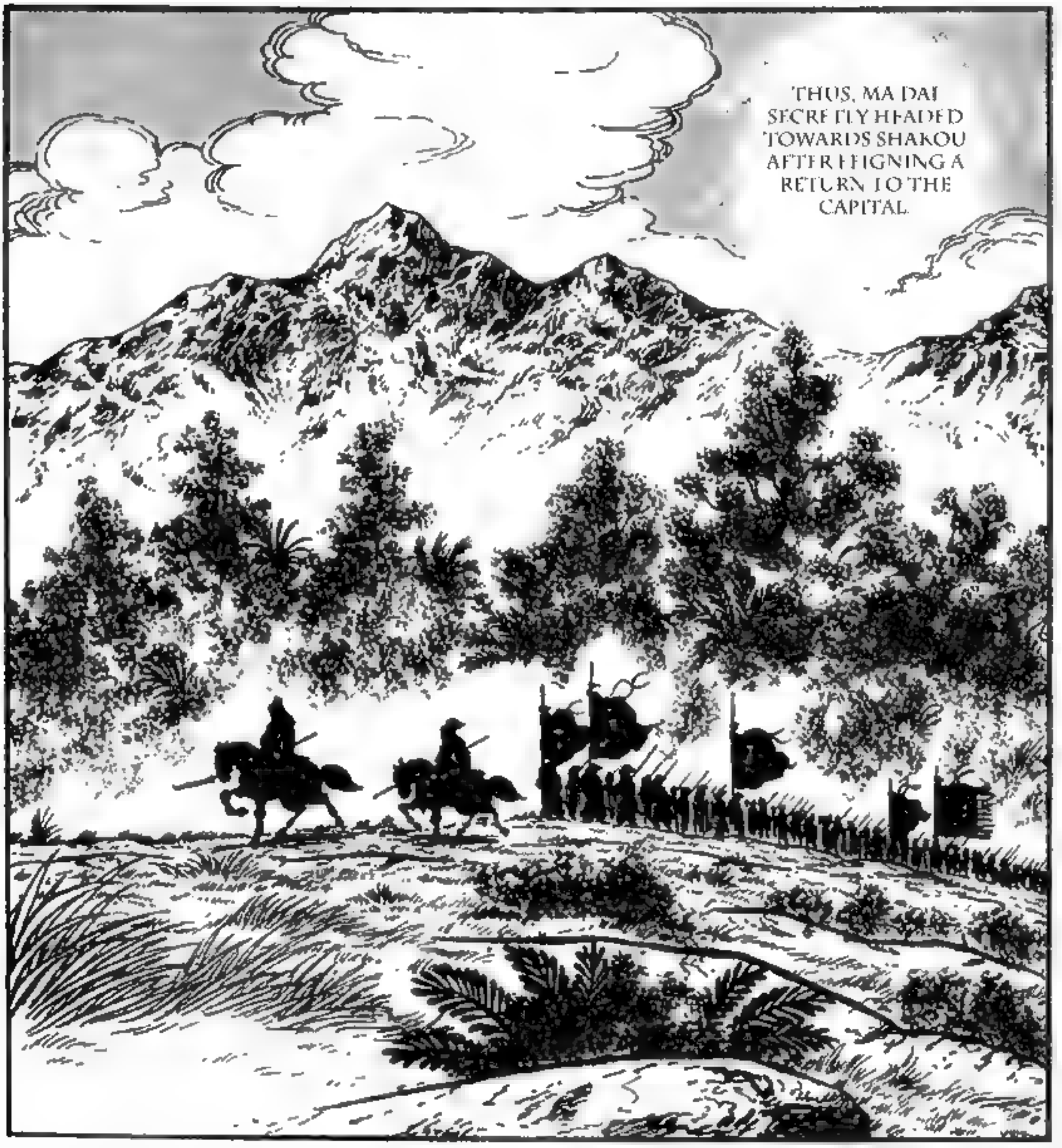
AROUND 105 LI FROM HERE IS A PLACE CALLED SHAKOU. THE CURRENTS HERE ARE SLOW, MAKING IT IDEAL FOR A RIVER CROSSING.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS MAP.

AFTER CROSSING THE RIVER, YOU WILL SOON COME ACROSS A ROAD, USED BY THE ENEMIES TO TRANSPORT SUPPLIES.

UNDERSTOOD. I WILL HEAD OUT AT ONCE.

IF YOU CAN CUT OFF THEIR ACCESS TO THIS ROAD, THE ENEMIES WILL SOON HAVE FOOD SHORTAGES.


THUS, MA DAI SECRETLY HEADED TOWARDS SHAKOU AFTER FEIGNING A RETURN TO THE CAPITAL.

YES, SIR.
THIS IS SHAKOU?

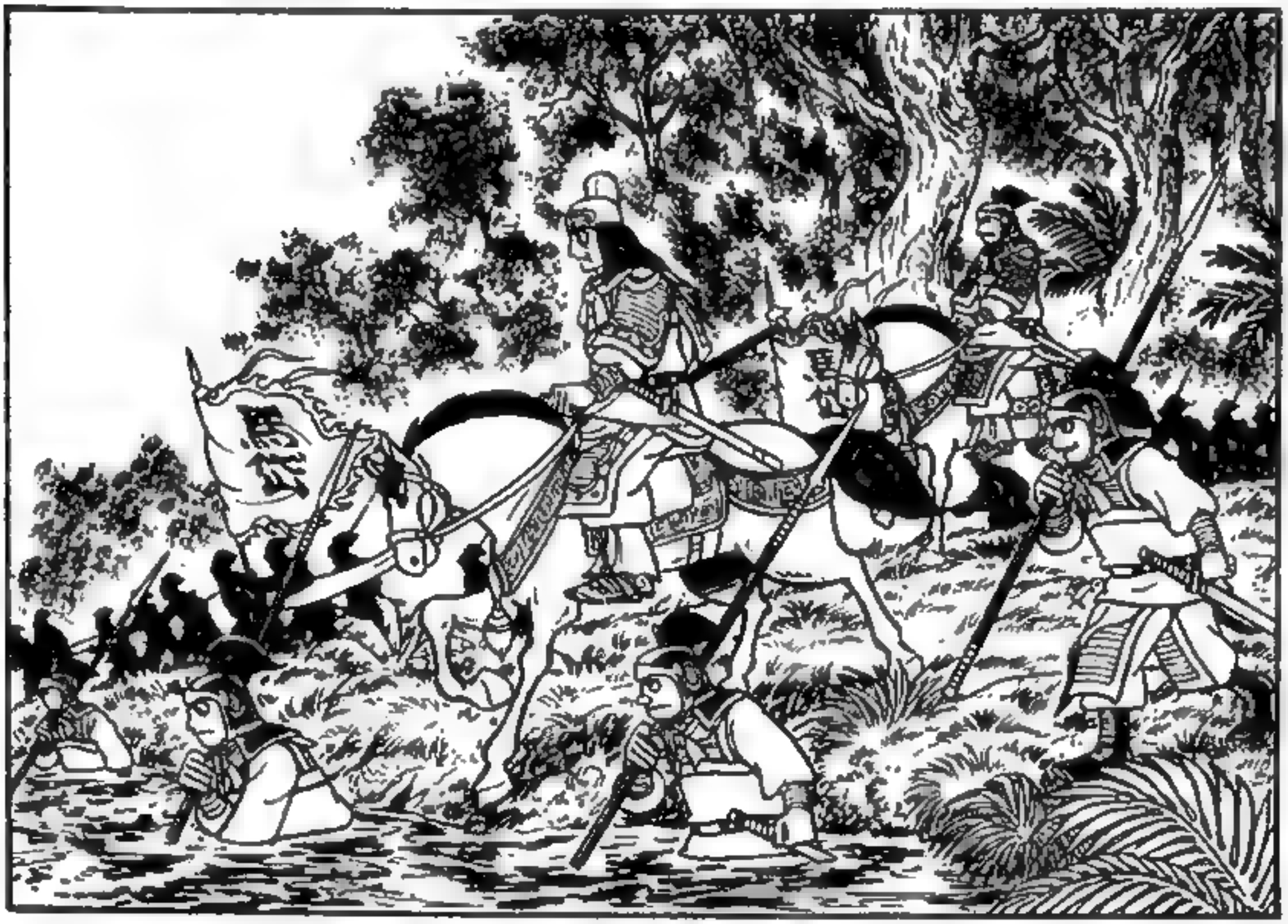
YES, THE RIVER CURRENTS DO INDEED COME TO A CRAWL HERE.
SEND MEN TO CHECK THE DEPTH!

YES, IT'S SHALLOW ENOUGH FOR US TO SIMPLY WADE ACROSS!

GENERAL, THE RIVER IS QUITE SHALLOW!

LET'S CROSS THE RIVER THEN!

AH, GOOD.



NGHH!

HM?

ACK!

WHAT'S WRONG!?

SOMETHING IS OFF! GET OUT FROM THE WATER!

JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...?

YES, SIR.

WE NEED TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ANY LOCALS.

WHAT AN EERIE RIVER...

GOOD.

SIR, WE'VE FOUND A LOCAL AT LAST!

YES, SIR.

BRING HIM HERE.

YOUR SAFETY IS ASSURED. I SIMPLY WISH TO ASK A FEW QUESTIONS.

Y-YES, PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE, SIR...

SO YOU LIVE AROUND THESE PARTS, DO YOU?

YOU TRIED TO CROSS THE RIVER DURING THE DAY .!?

I TRIED TO CROSS THE RIVER AT A POINT CALLED SHAKOU DURING THE DAY, BUT MY MEN SUDDENLY STARTED TO COLLAPSE. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT CAUSED THIS?

Y-YES, SIR. MANY ROTTEN TREES AND GRASSES PILE UP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SLOW AND SHALLOW RIVER THERE, WHICH THEN RELEASE A TOXIC MIASMA DURING THE HOT DAY.

WAS THAT A MISTAKE?

ACTUALLY, THE MIASMA CLEARS UP DURING THE COOL NIGHT.

THEN IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO CROSS THE RIVER THERE?

TOXIC MIASMA!?

WE LOCALS CALL IT A TOXIC RIVER FOR THAT REASON.

AH, SO THE TEMPERATURE MUST FALL FIRST...

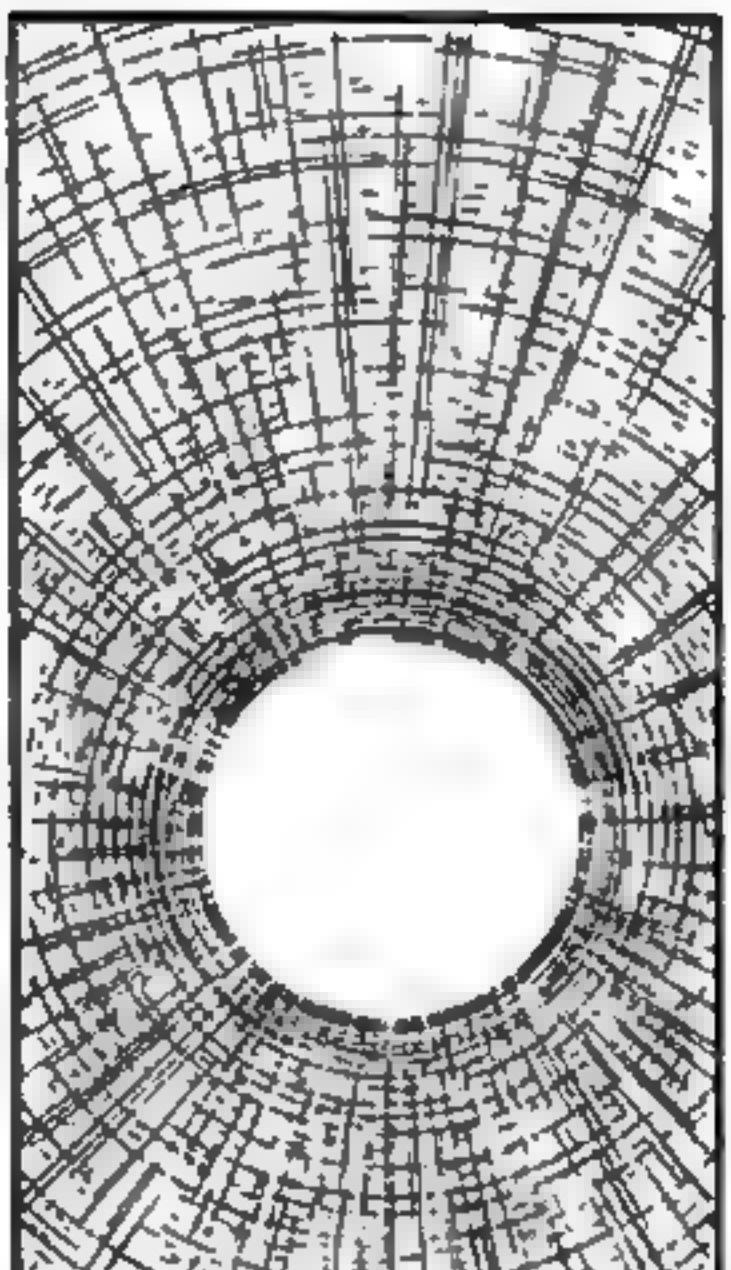
IT IS SAFE TO CROSS WITH BARGES THEN.

I HUMBLY ACCEPT, SIR.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP. HERE'S A REWARD.

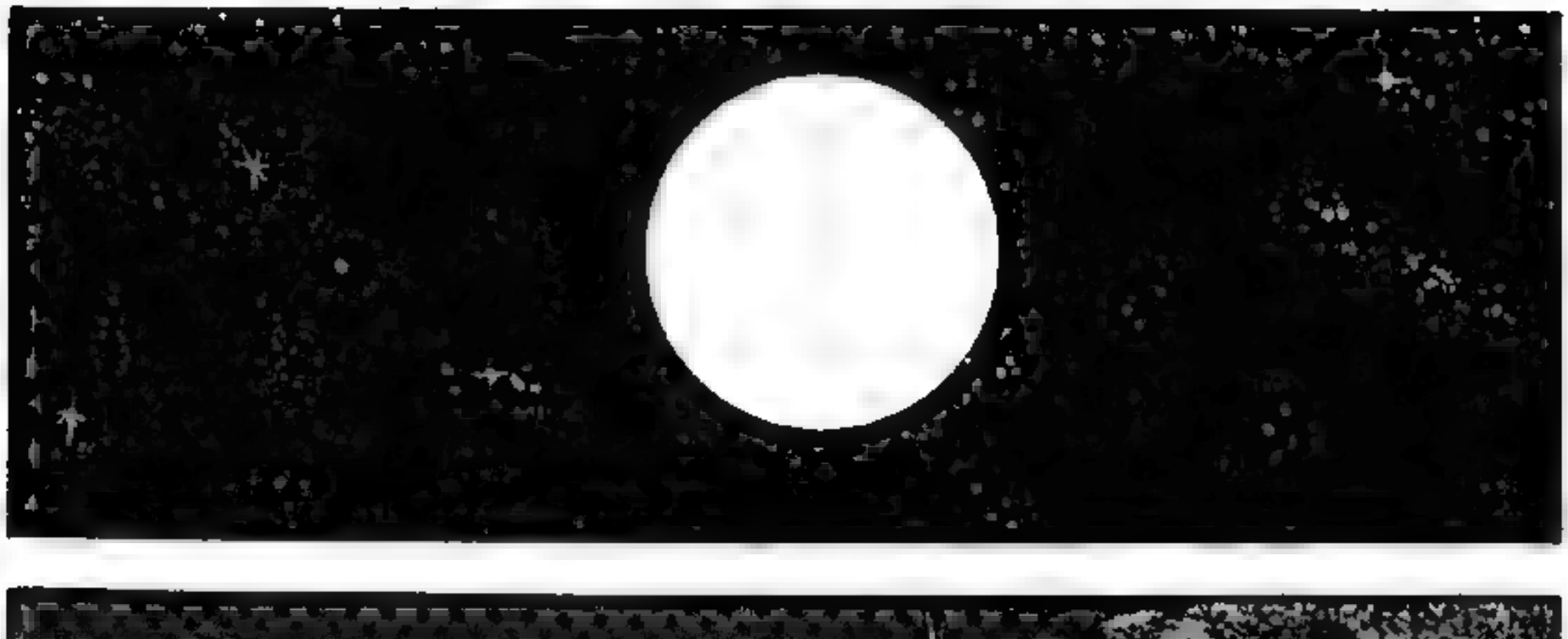
YES, SIR.

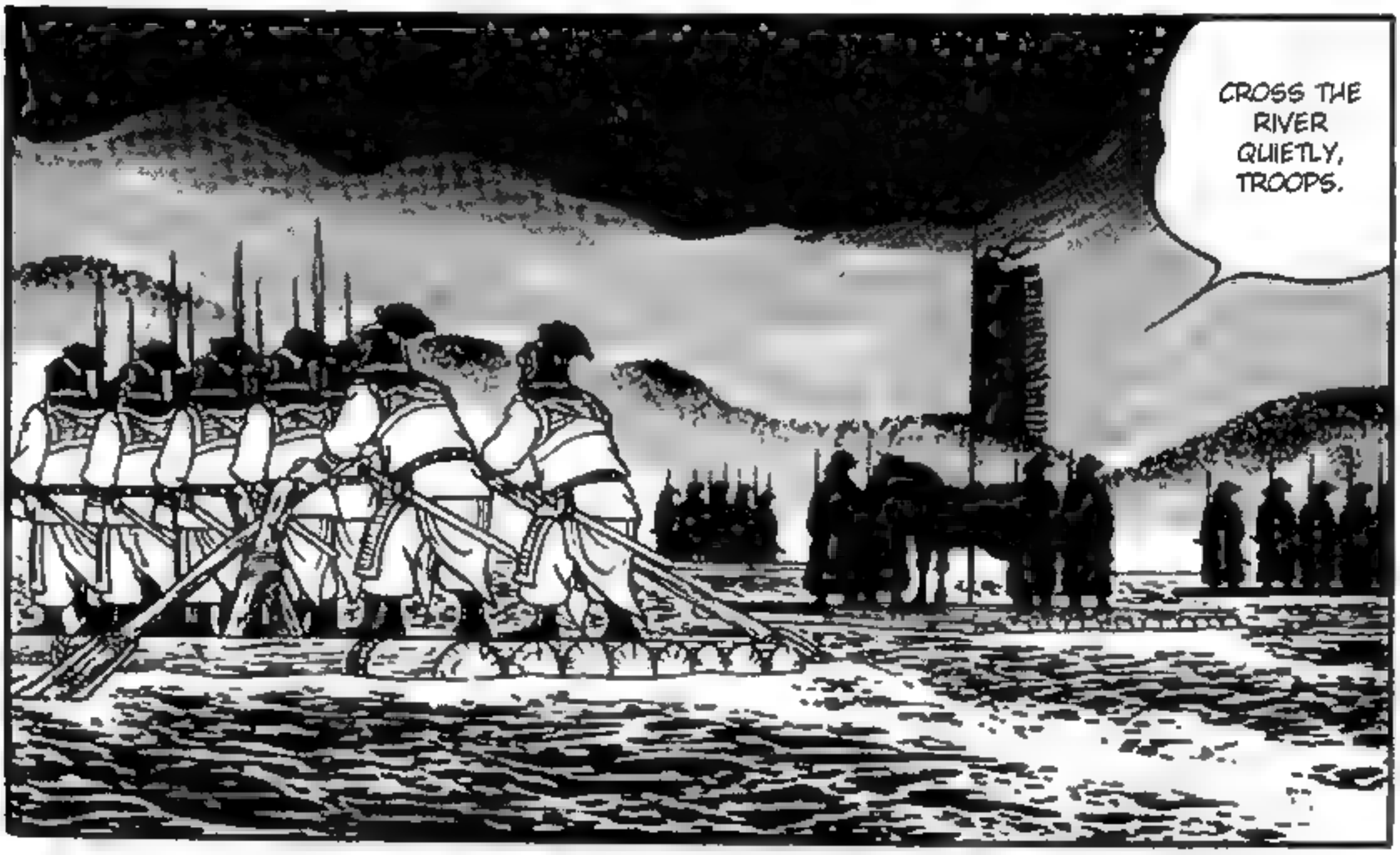
YOU HEARD HIM. START BUILDING BARGES AND RAFTS.



YES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FERRY ALL THE MEN ACROSS WITH THESE.

THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY, I SEE.




CROSS THE RIVER QUIETLY, TROOPS.

JIASHAN GORGE

OHHH!

SIR, THE ROAD IS JUST AHEAD!

YES, SIR.
SET UP OUR MEN ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THIS NARROW GORGE.

SO THIS IS THEIR SUPPLY ROUTE.

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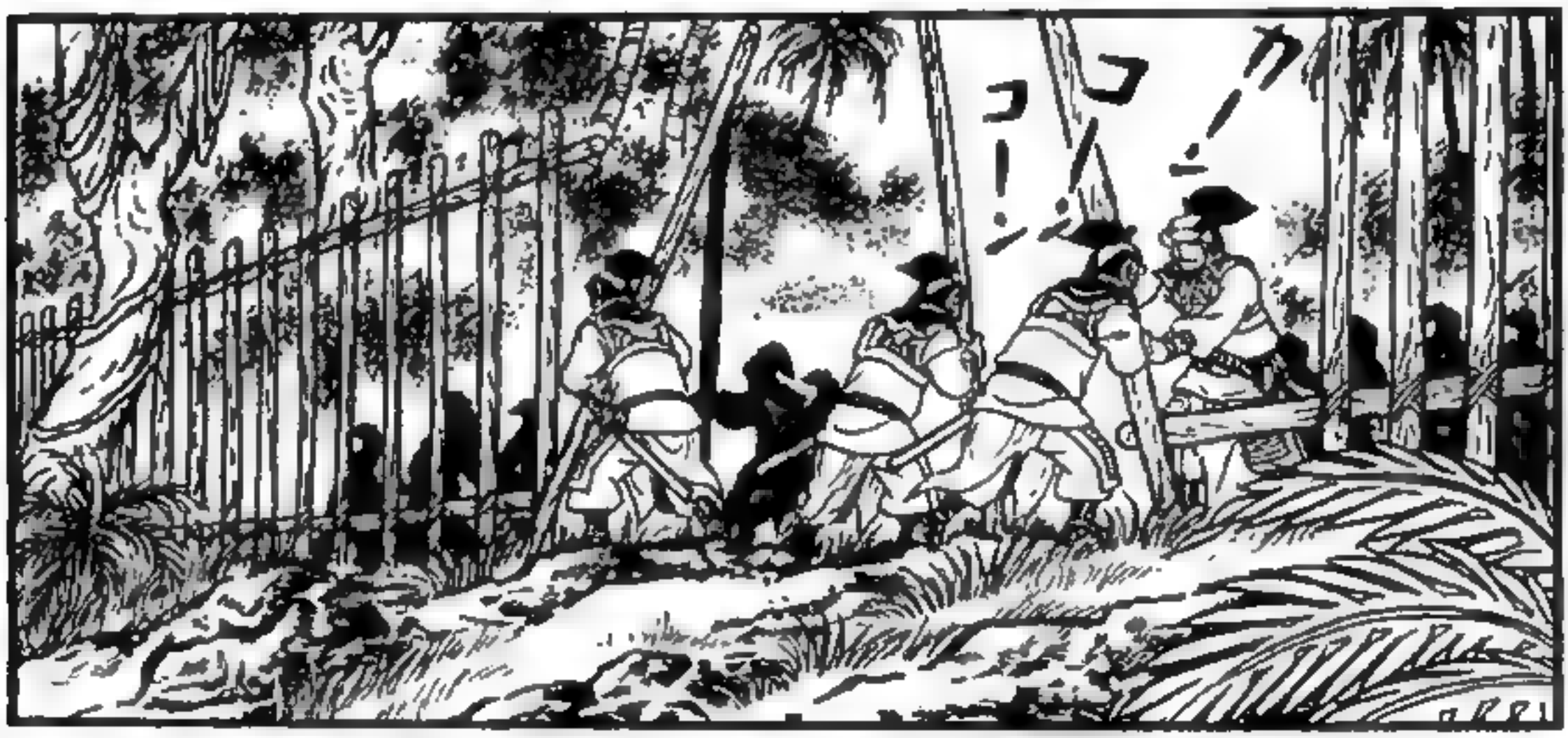
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HM?

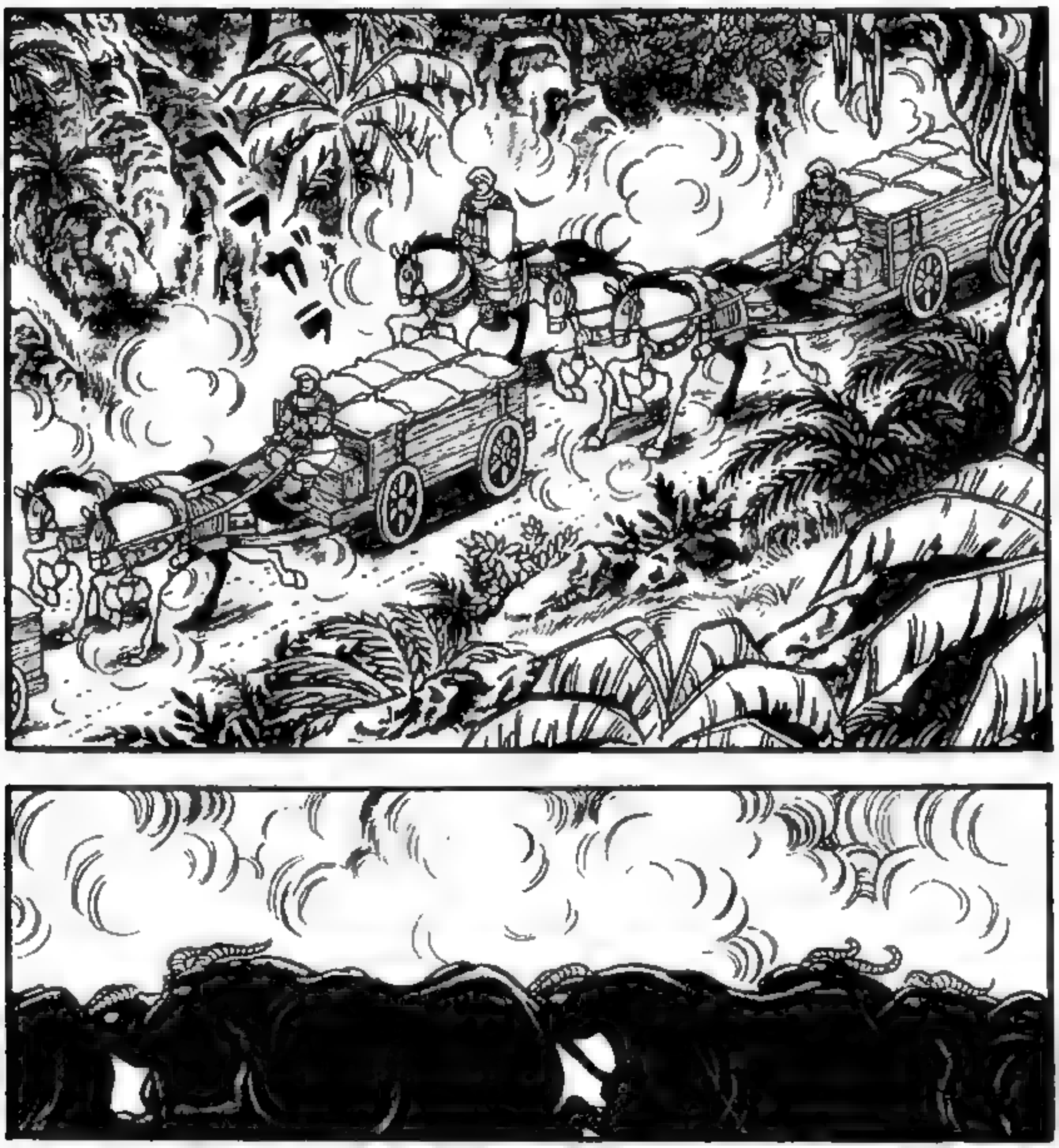
SIR!

AHH!

WHAT!
ENEMY TROOPS ARE APPROACH-ING!

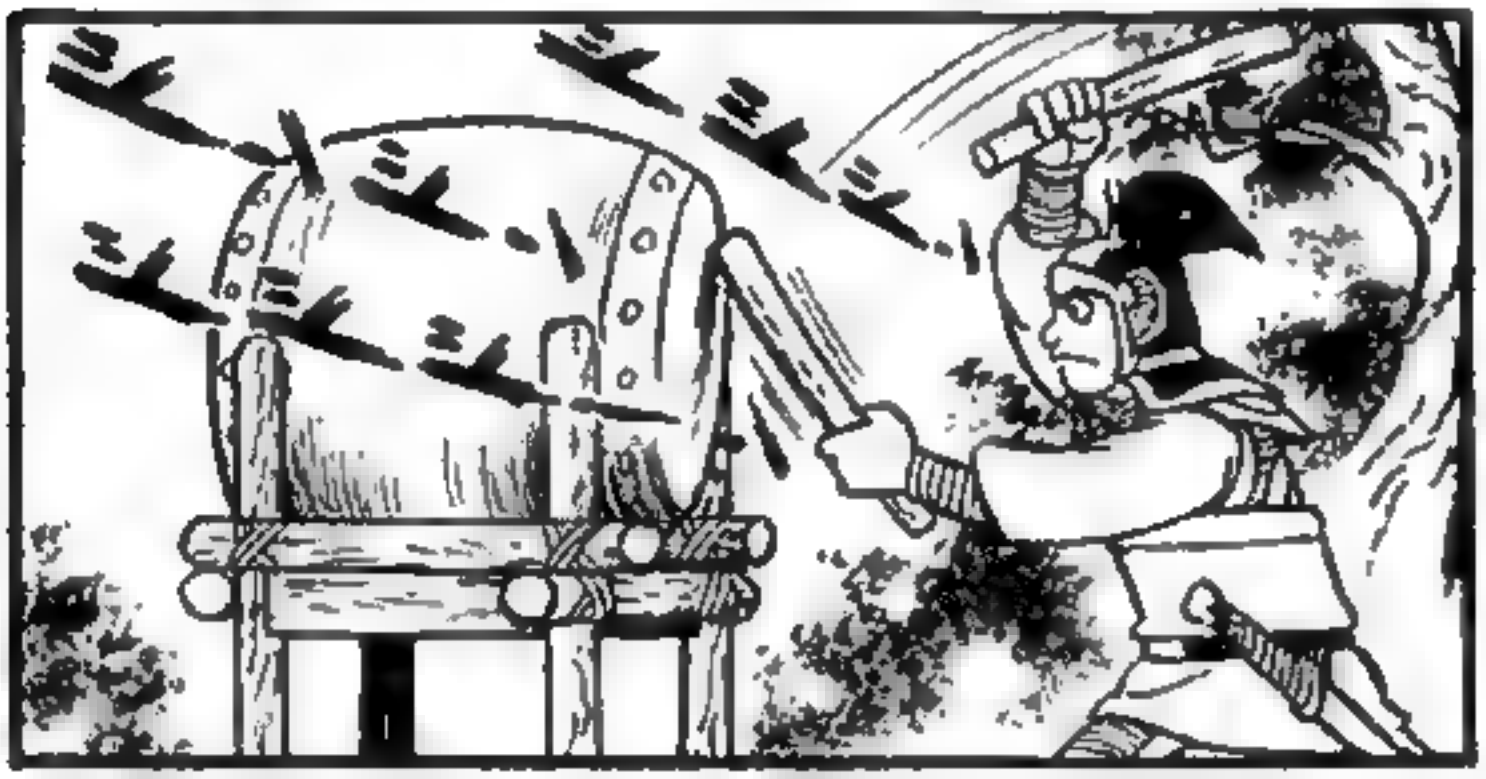
YES, SIR.
WE ATTACK ON MY SIGNAL.

ESCORTS FOR THE R SUPPLY WAGONS!

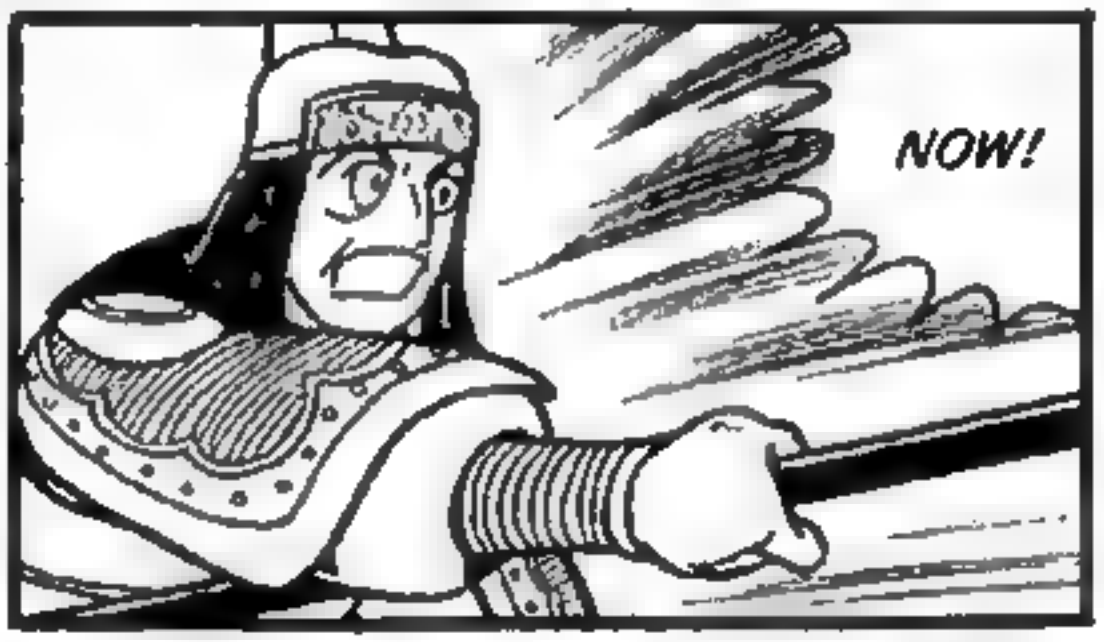


SOUND THE SIGNAL!

HAHA, THEY NEVER DREAMT THEIR ENEMIES WOULD AWAIT THEM HERE, I BET...

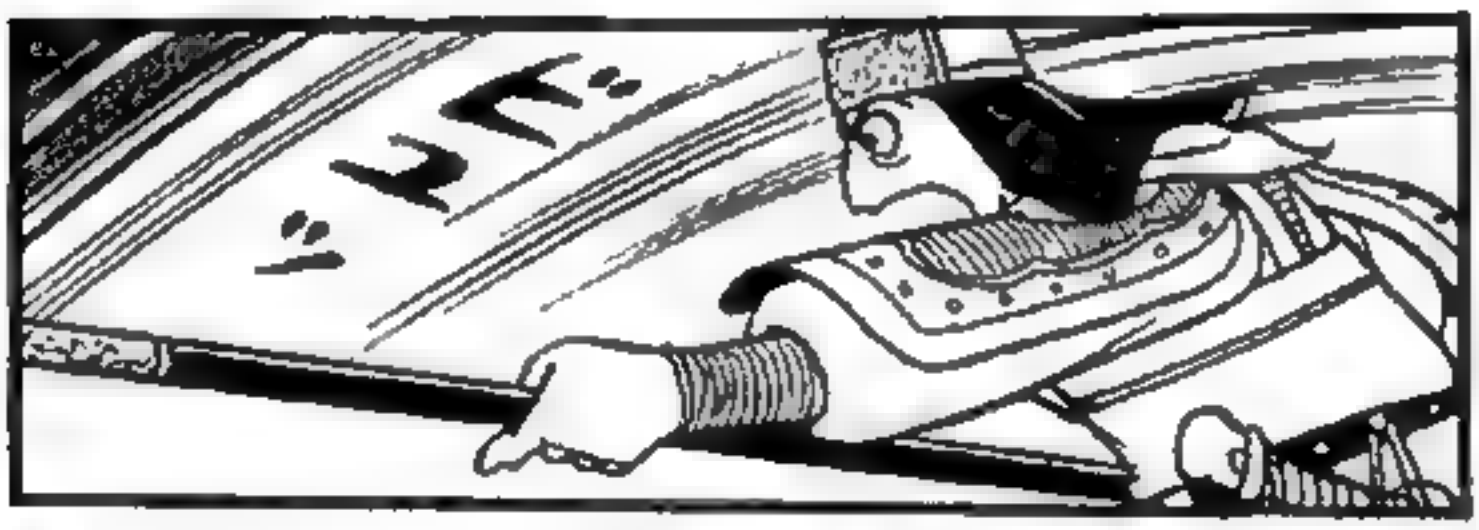


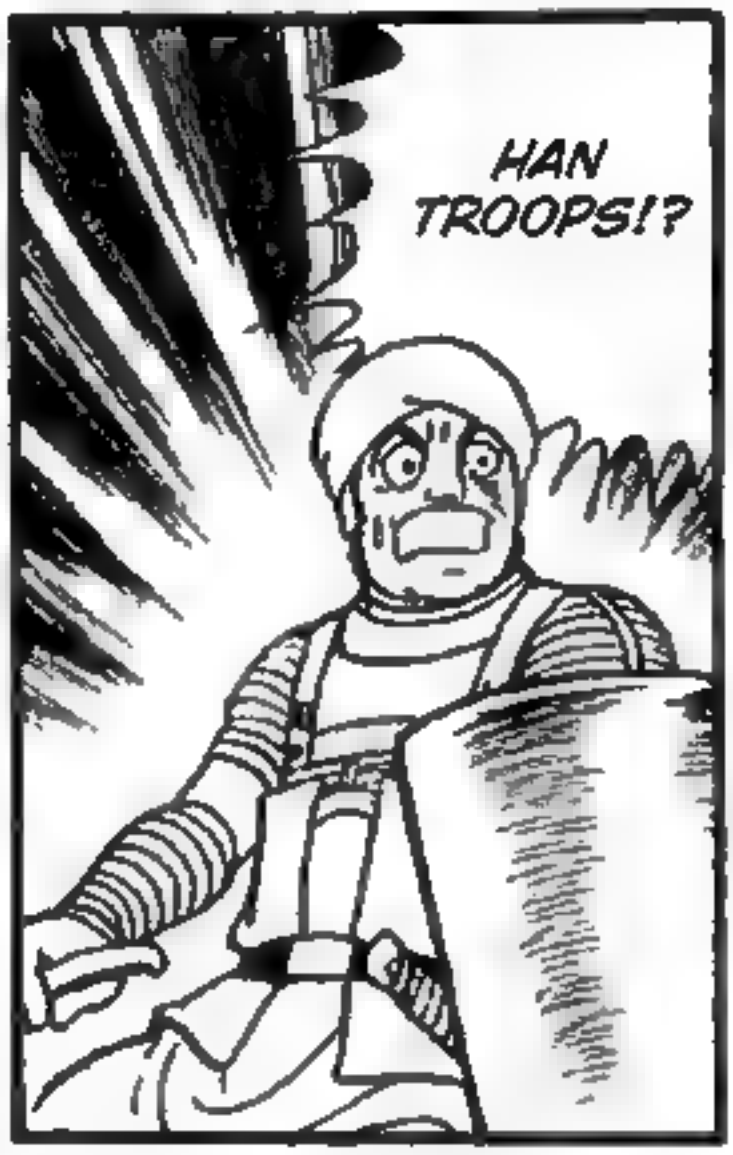
ATTACK!


NOW!

HUH?

HM?




HAN TROOPS!?

AGHH!

DO NOT PURSUE THEM! THEIR SUPPLIES ARE OUR ONLY OBJECTIVE!

ACK!

AHHH!

LET'S CARRY IT BACK NOW!

HAHAHA, WHAT A HAUL!

HAHA, I WON'T LET ONE SINGLE GRAIN REACH A NANMAN MOUTH.

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FORGIVE ME, SIR.
HEY, MY CUP IS EMPTY!
URGENT REPORT!

OUR SUPPLY ESCORTS WERE ATTACKED BY SHU TROOPS!

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THEY WERE STILL GLARING AT US ACROSS THE RIVER LAST TIME I CHECKED.

WHAT!?

WHAT!

A GENERAL CALLED MA DAI SEEMS TO HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER AT SHAKOU AND HAS SET UP CAMPS AT JIASHAN GORGE TO INTERCEPT OUR SUPPLY WAGONS.

THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION, S R.

THEY ACTUALLY MANAGED TO CROSS THE RIVER!?

CURSES! WHO COULD HAVE TOLD THEM HOW TO CROSS THE TOXIC RIVER!?

IF WE DO NOT HAVE FULL CONTROL OF THAT ROAD, WE CANNOT KEEP OUR SOLDIERS HERE FED, SIR...

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT...

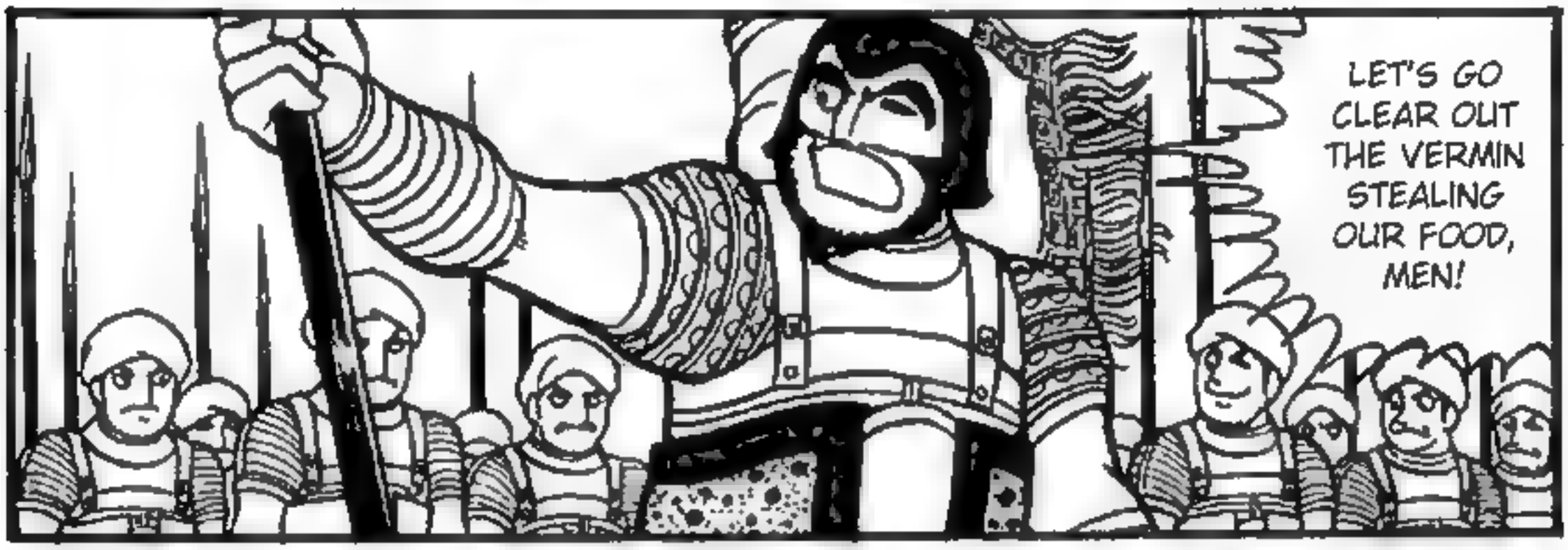
NEVER MIND THAT, WE MUST REGAIN CONTROL OF THAT ROAD, SIR!

GO TO JIASHAN GORGE AND BRING ME MA DAI'S HEAD!

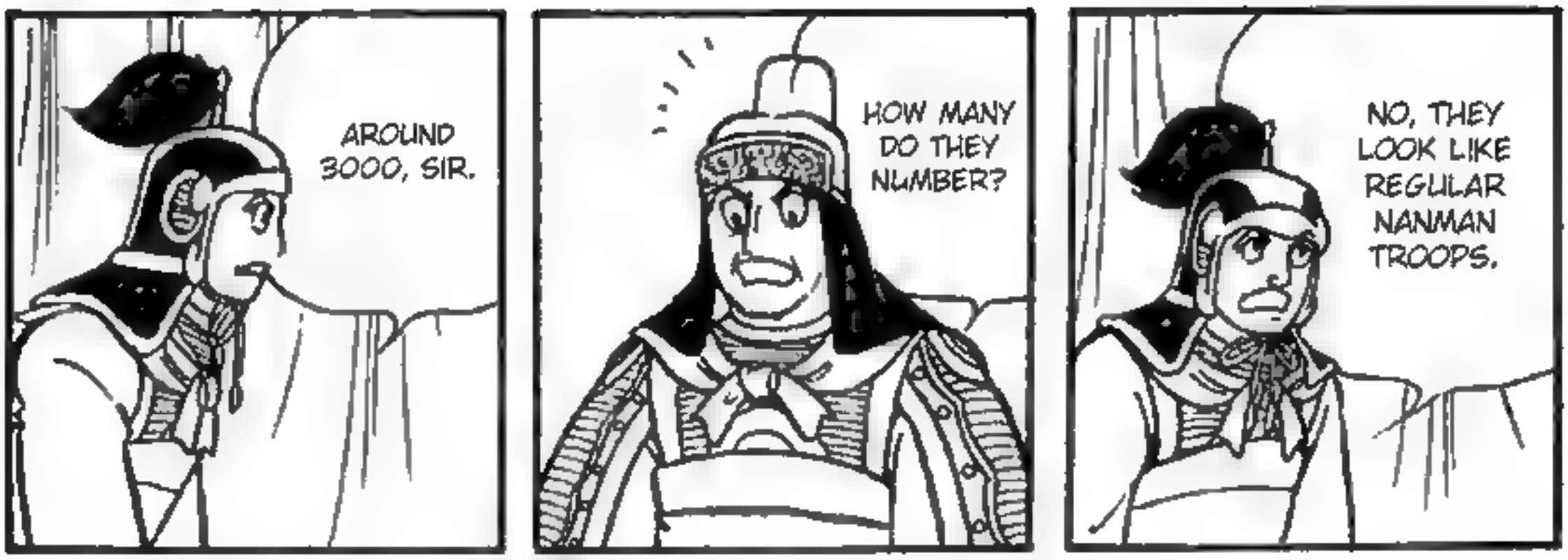
YES?

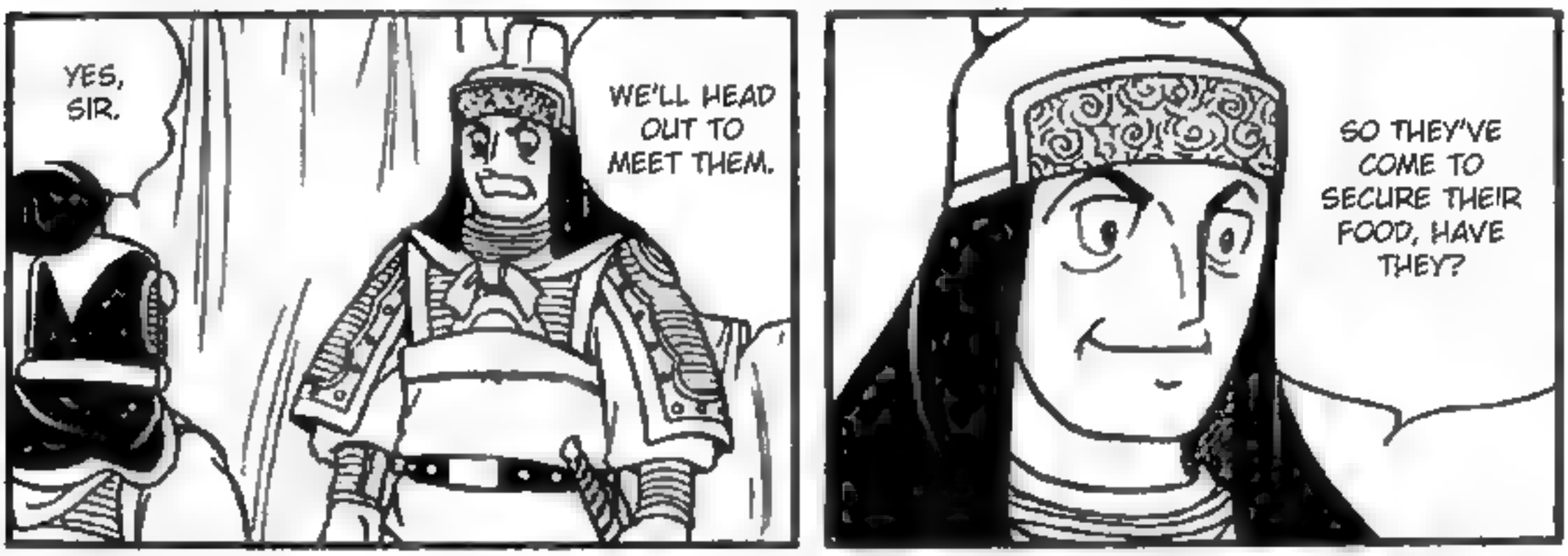
MANGYA CHANG!

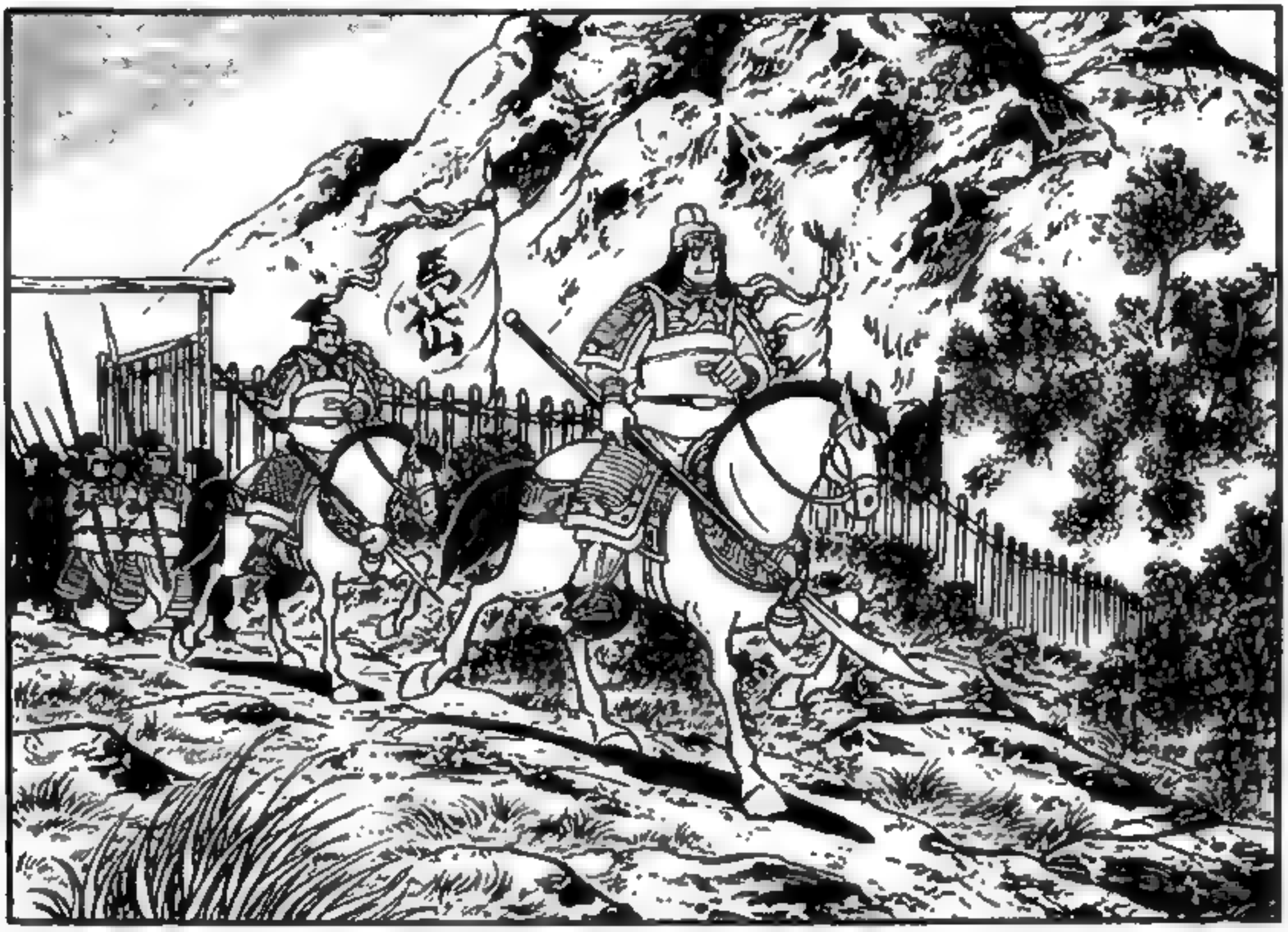
YES, SIR.


LET'S GO CLEAR OUT THE VERMIN STEALING OUR FOOD, MEN!

100 FLOGGINGS


AROUND 3000, SIR.
HOW MANY DO THEY NUMBER?
NO, THEY LOOK LIKE REGULAR NANMAN TROOPS.


YES, SIR.
WE'LL HEAD OUT TO MEET THEM.
SO THEY'VE COME TO SECURE THEIR FOOD, HAVE THEY?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HM...
MANGYA CHANG, THE ENEMIES ARE UP AHEAD.

HM?

THAT WOULD BE ME! GENERAL MANGYA CHANG!

I AM MA DAI, GENERAL WHO PACIFIES THE NORTH! WHO AMONG YOU IS YOUR LEADER!?

WHAT!?

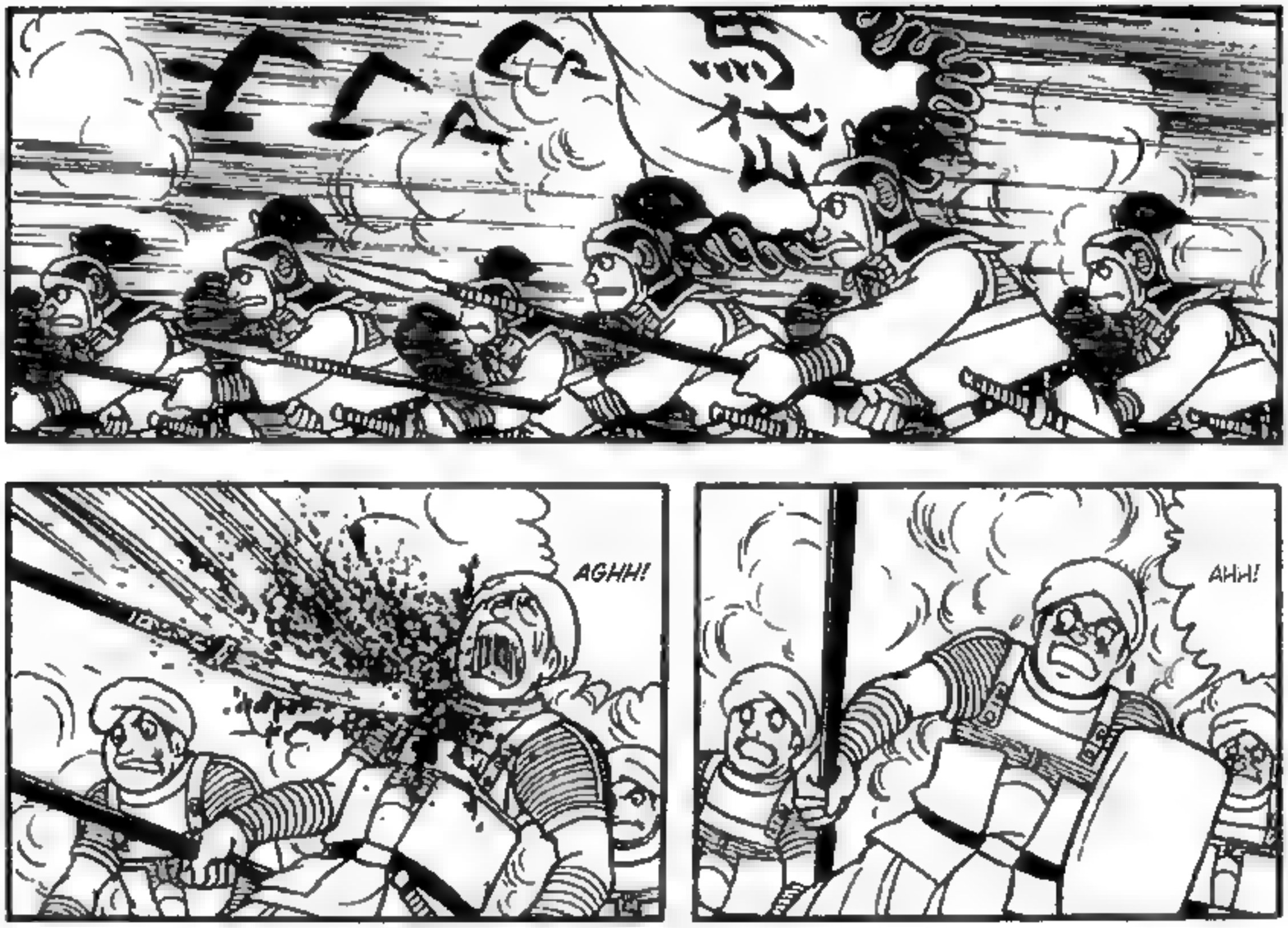
HMM, NOT QUITE THE WORTHY FOE I HOPED, BUT I SUPPOSE I CAN PLAY WITH YOU.

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT REMARK WITH YOUR HEAD!

NOW WHO'S NEXT!?

AGHH!

FELLED IN A SINGLE BLOW...!


AGHH!
AHH!

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獲物

YES, AND WE SUFFERED A BITTER DEFEAT AS A RESULT...

WHAT!? MANGYA CHANG WAS KILLED IN A SINGLE BLOW!?

DAMN IT!

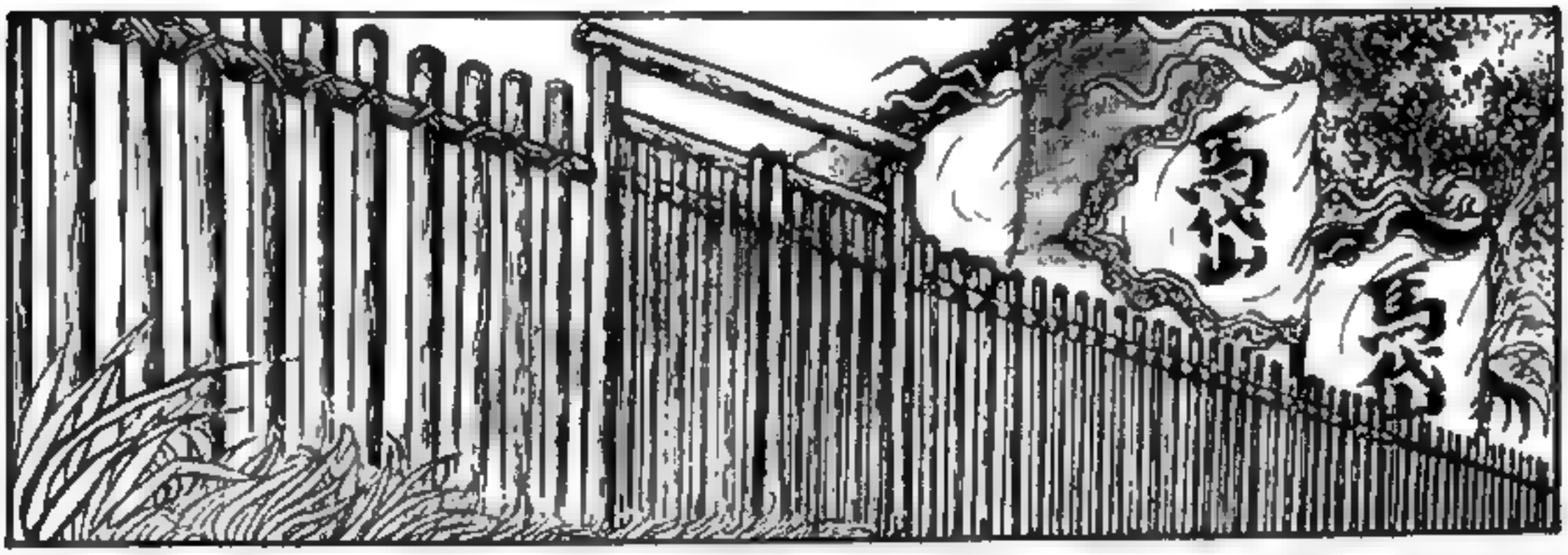
YES?

DONGTU NA!

YES, SIR.

GO AND AVENGE MANGYA CHANG'S DEATH!

LET'S MOVE OUT!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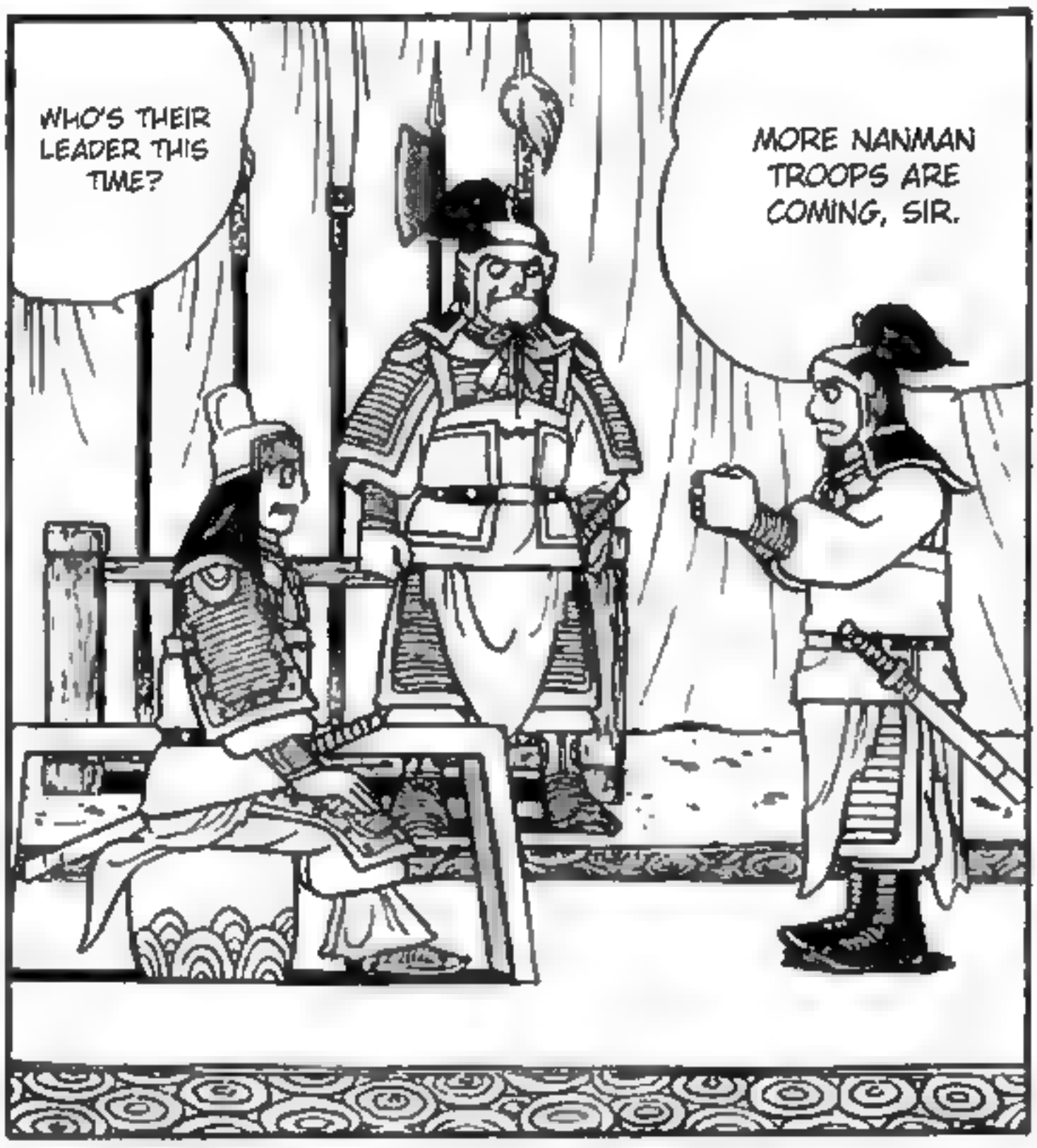
THE SCOUTS SAW DONGTU NA'S BANNER.

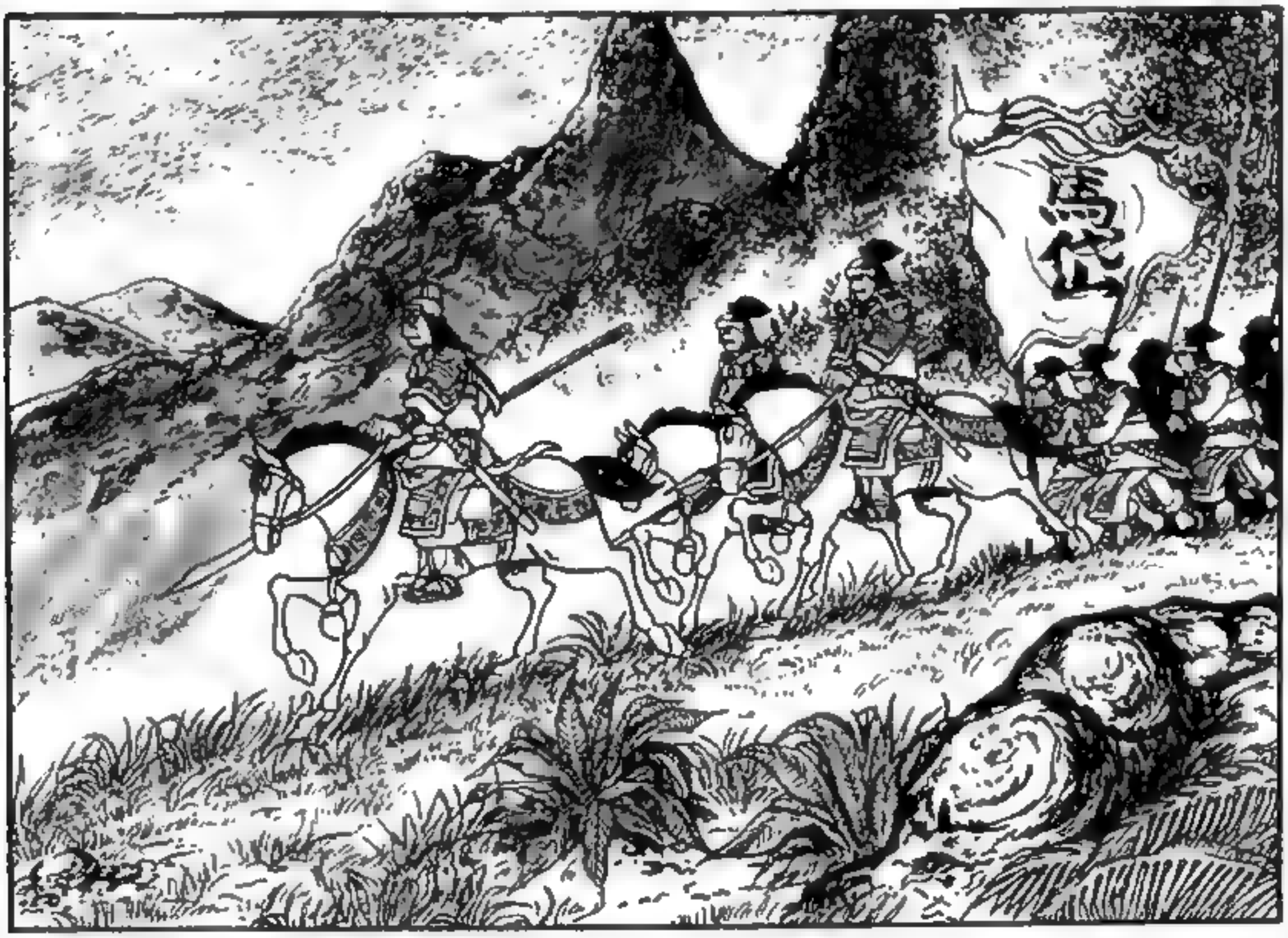
DONGTU NA?


WHO'S THEIR LEADER THIS TIME?
MORE NANMAN TROOPS ARE COMING, SIR.

YES, I BELIEVE SO TOO, SIR.
IF MY MEMORY SERVES CORRECTLY, HE SHOULD BE THE ONE OUR CHANCELLOR ONCE CAPTURED AND RELEASED BEFORE.

SOUND THE SIGNAL TO PREPARE TO MARCH OUT!

YES, SIR.



HM?

IS THAT DONGTU NA BEFORE ME?

YOU MAY BE A BARBARIAN BUT I PRESUME YOU ARE NOT AN ANIMAL.

YES, AND?

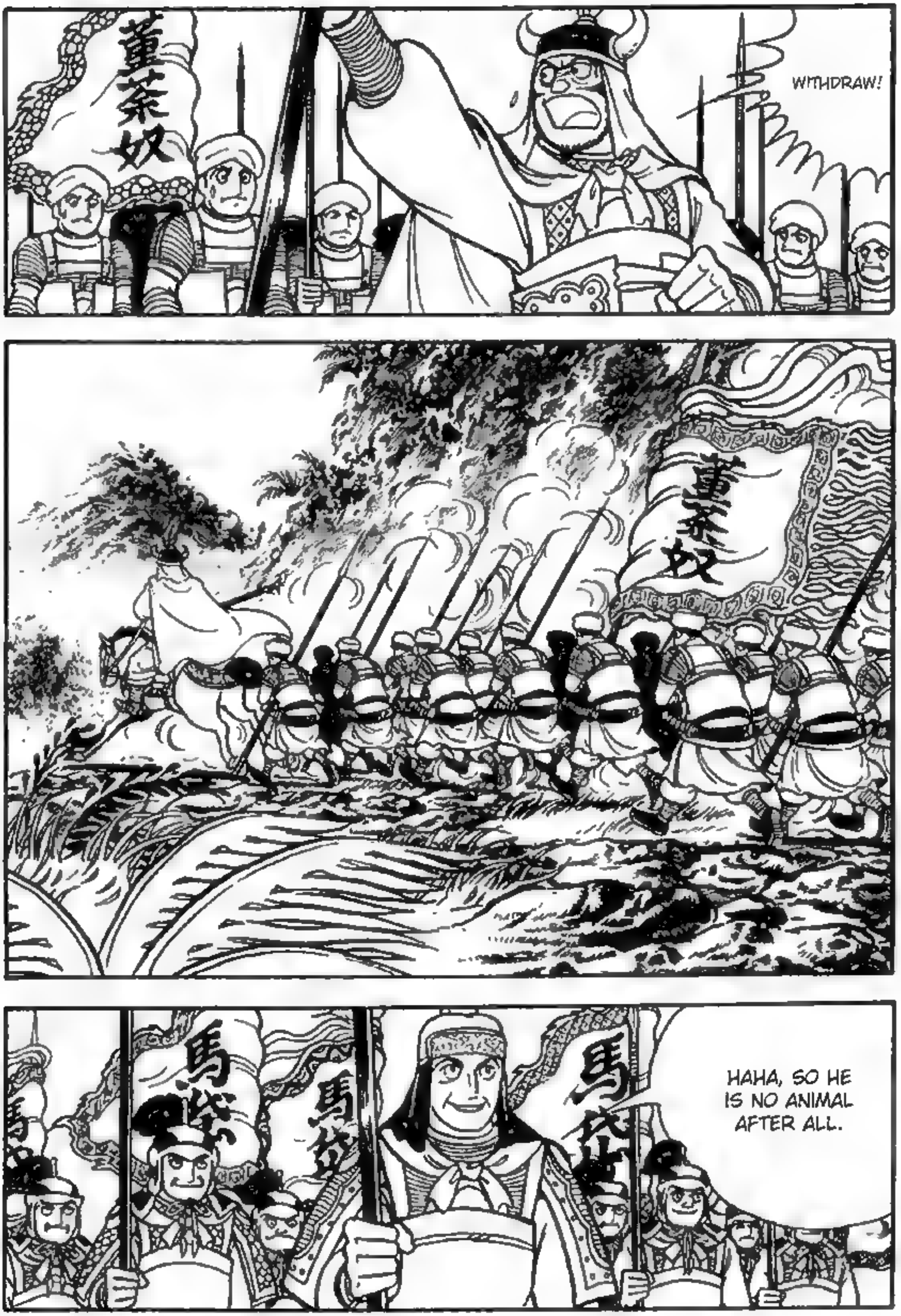
董荼奴

IF MY PRESUMPTIONS ARE TRUE, THEN WHY DO YOU STILL OPPOSE OUR FORCES WHEN THE CHANCELLOR WAS MERCIFUL ENOUGH TO LET YOU ESCAPE ALIVE! WAS I MISTAKEN IN THINKING THAT NANMAN MEN WERE ABOVE ANIMALS FOR THEY AT LEAST UNDERSTOOD CONCEPTS LIKE DEBT AND GRATITUDE!?

IF I AM WRONG AND YOU INSIST ON FIGHTING LIKE A STUBBORN BOAR, THEN I WILL GLADLY MAKE QUICK WORK OF YOU LIKE MANGYA CHANG!

董荼奴

MNN...


董荼奴
WITHDRAW!
董荼奴
馬岱
馬岱
馬岱
HAHA, SO HE IS NO ANIMAL AFTER ALL.

I... I'M AFRAID MA DAI IS NO ORDINARY GENERAL WHO CAN BE BEATEN WITH MY PALTRY NUMBERS.

YOU CAME BACK WITHOUT A FIGHT!?

YOU COWARDLY CUR...

YOU BETRAYED ME, DIDN'T YOU!?

ENOUGH EXCUSES! MEN! I WANT THIS MAN EXECUTED AS AN EXAMPLE!

W-WHAT? NO!

YOU'VE ALREADY SOLD OUT TO KONGMING, HAVEN'T YOU!?

...

WE MUST NOT TURN OUR SWORDS AGAINST EACH OTHER WHILE FIGHTING THE HAN!

P-PLEASE CALM DOWN, SIR.

FINE, I'LL SPARE HIM ONLY BECAUSE ALL OF YOU INSIST.

NGHH...

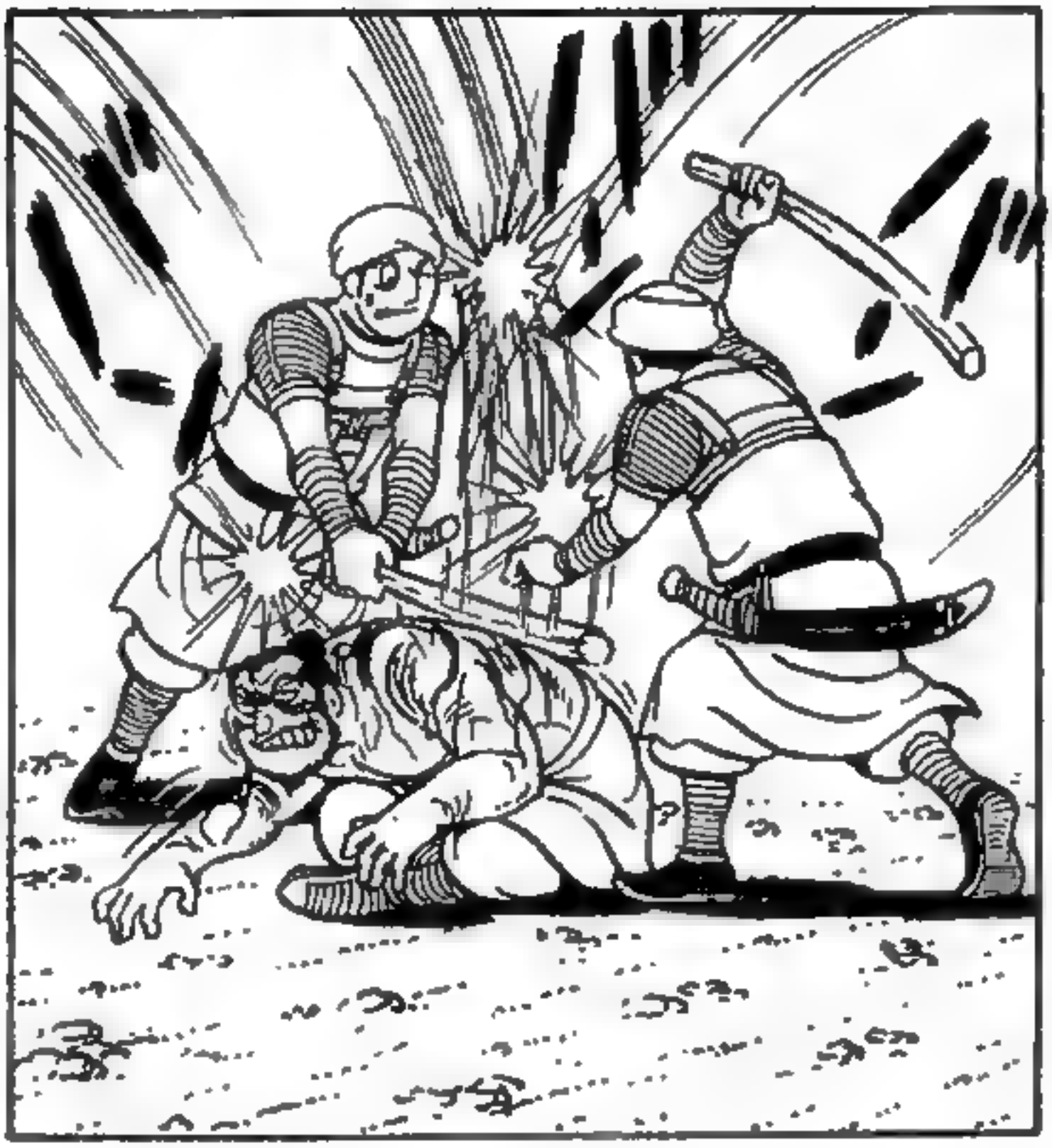
HOWEVER, I SENTENCE YOU TO 100 FLOGGINGS!

PLEASE BEAR THIS, GENERA...

DRAG HIM OUT AND FLOG HIM NOW!

YES.

BEGIN!



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DEFY MY ORDERS!

蓋聶奴
蓋聶奴

HEAR IS SOME MEDICINE, SIR.
MN...

NGHH...

I HAVE TO SAY KING MENG HUO WENT A BIT TOO FAR TODAY...

URGH...

ALRIGHT, LET THEM IN.

YES, SIR.

?

SOME OF THE CAPTAINS WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU, GENERAL.

AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, THE REST OF US CAPTAINS HAVE COME TO A DECISION, SIR.

WHAT BRINGS ALL OF YOU HERE?

OUT WITH IT THEN.

YES.

THIS SOUNDS QUITE SERIOUS...

IT WAS ALL MENG HUO'S IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE TO JOIN HANDS WITH WEI AND INVADE SHU LANDS.

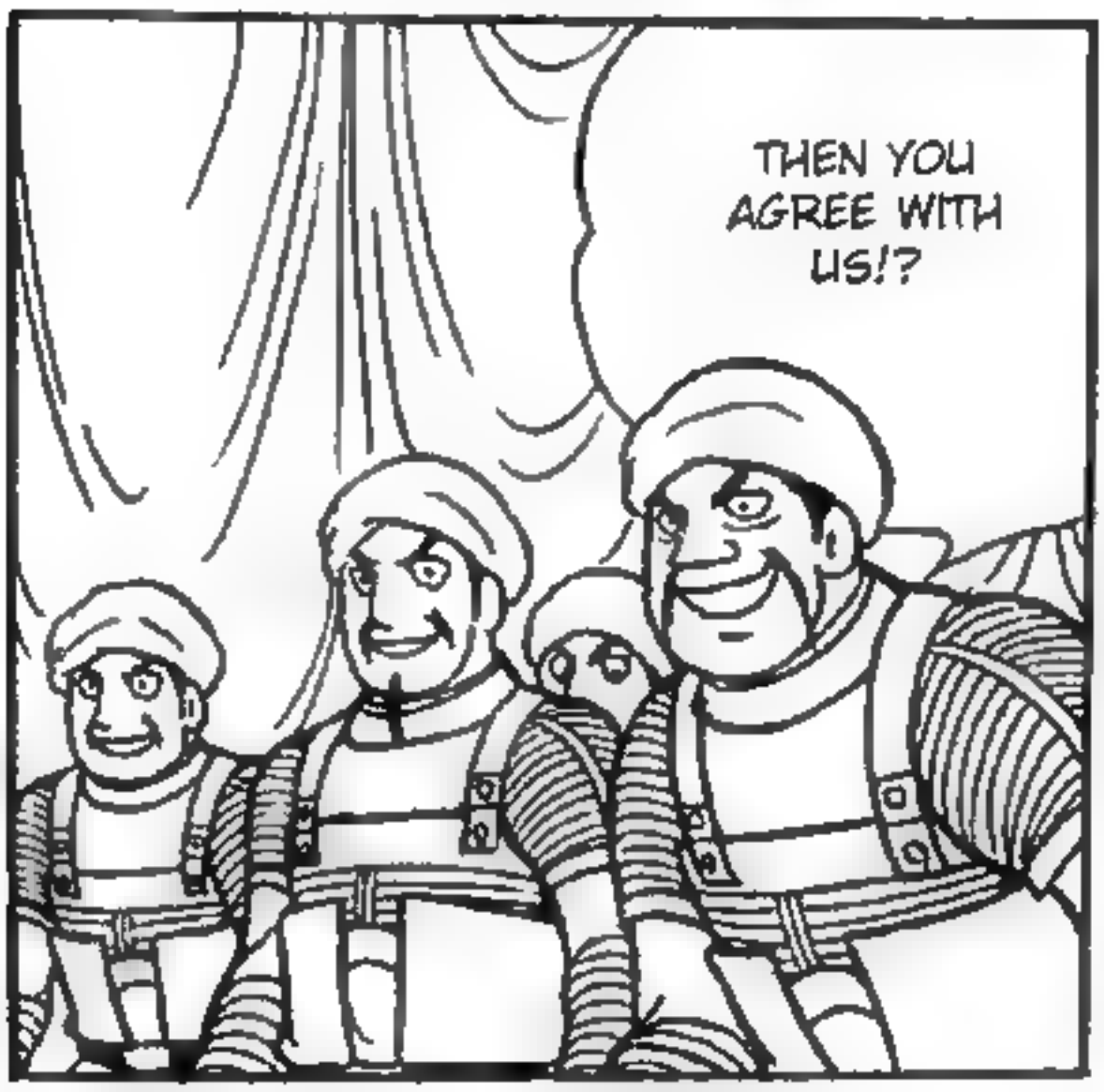
WE HAVE NEVER REALLY DESIRED TO ATTACK HAN LANDS, NOR HAS THE HAN EMPIRE SOUGHT TO TAKE OUR LANDS BEFORE.

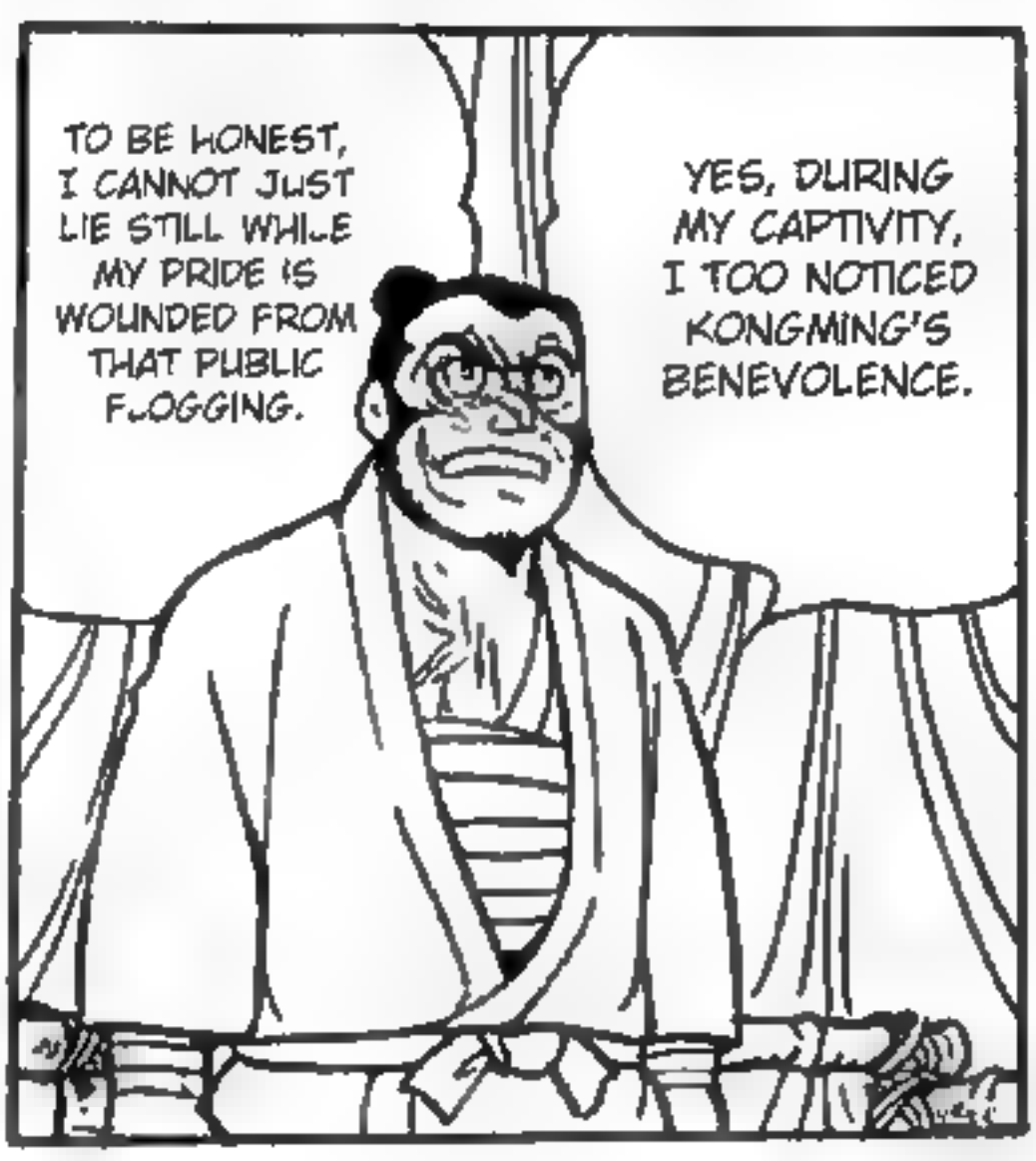
.....

KONGMING'S A MASTER OF STRATEGY FEARED BY WEI AND WU. WHAT CHANCE DO WE REALLY HAVE?

THUS, WE WERE THINKING PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR OUR PEOPLE'S FORTUNES TO TURN OVER MENG HUO AND SURRENDER TO KONGMING.

MOREOVER, IT IS HARD FOR US TO GET MOTIVATED FIGHTING A MAN MERCIFUL AND KIND ENOUGH TO RELEASE US.


THEN YOU AGREE WITH US!?


TO BE HONEST, I CANNOT JUST LIE STILL WHILE MY PRIDE IS WOUNDED FROM THAT PUBLIC FLOGGING.
YES, DURING MY CAPTIVITY, I TOO NOTICED KONGMING'S BENEVOLENCE.

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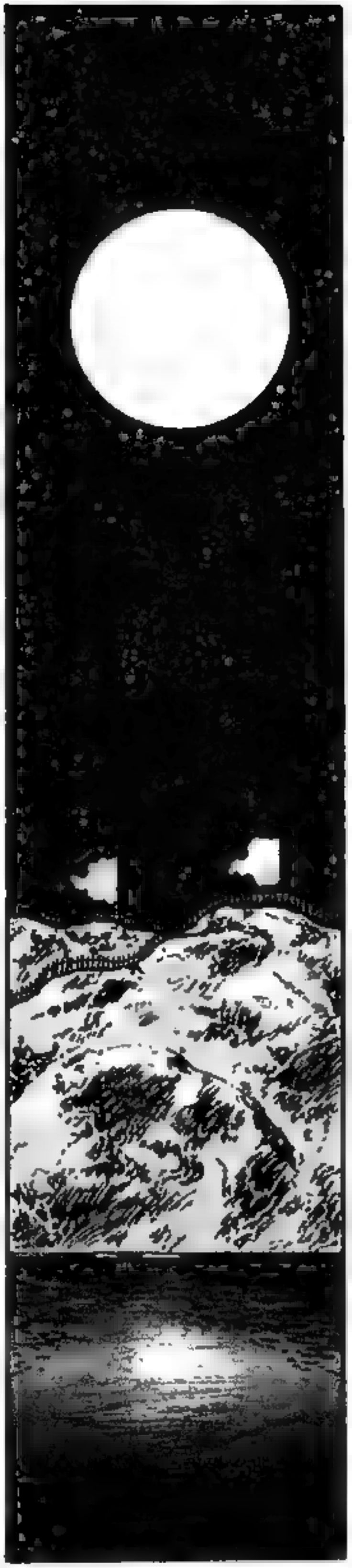


HALT!
WHO GOES
THERE!?

MY SYMPA-THIES GO OUT TO THE INCIDENT EARLIER IN THE DAY, SIR.

IT'S ME, DONGTU NA.

DID YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH THE KING?

W-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, SIR!?

HM?

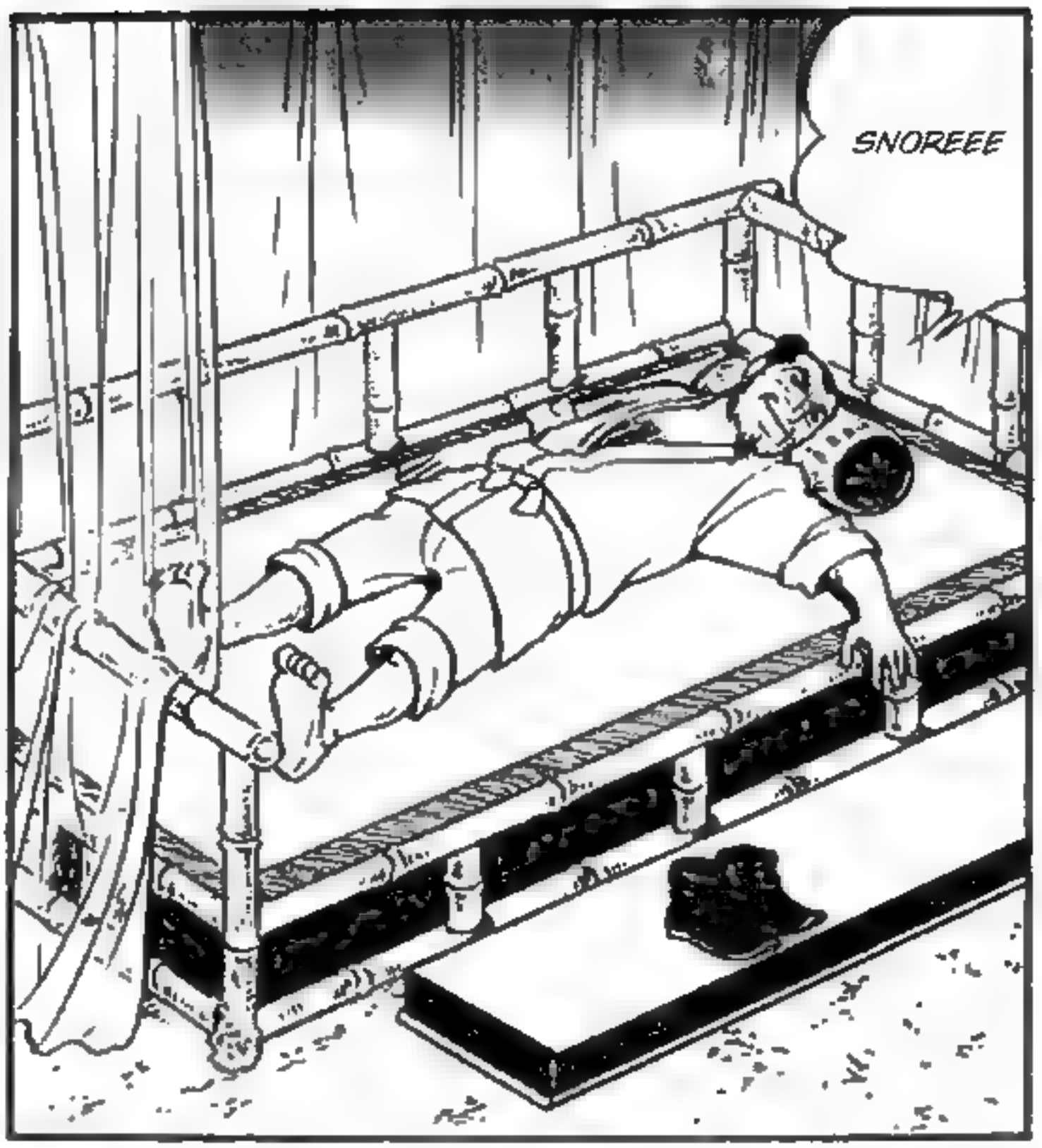
AFTER PONDERING WHAT IS BETTER FOR OUR PEOPLE'S FUTURE, I DECIDED KONGMING WILL BE A BETTER OVERLORD THAN THE TYRANNICAL KING MENG HUO!

WHAT!?

WAIT, WAIT! I'LL JOIN TOO, IF THAT'S THE CASE!

GOOD.
MENG HUO IS DEEP ASLEEP AFTER DRINKING ALL DAY. COME, NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

I TOO WAS ONE OF THE CAPTIVES RELEASED BY KONGMING.

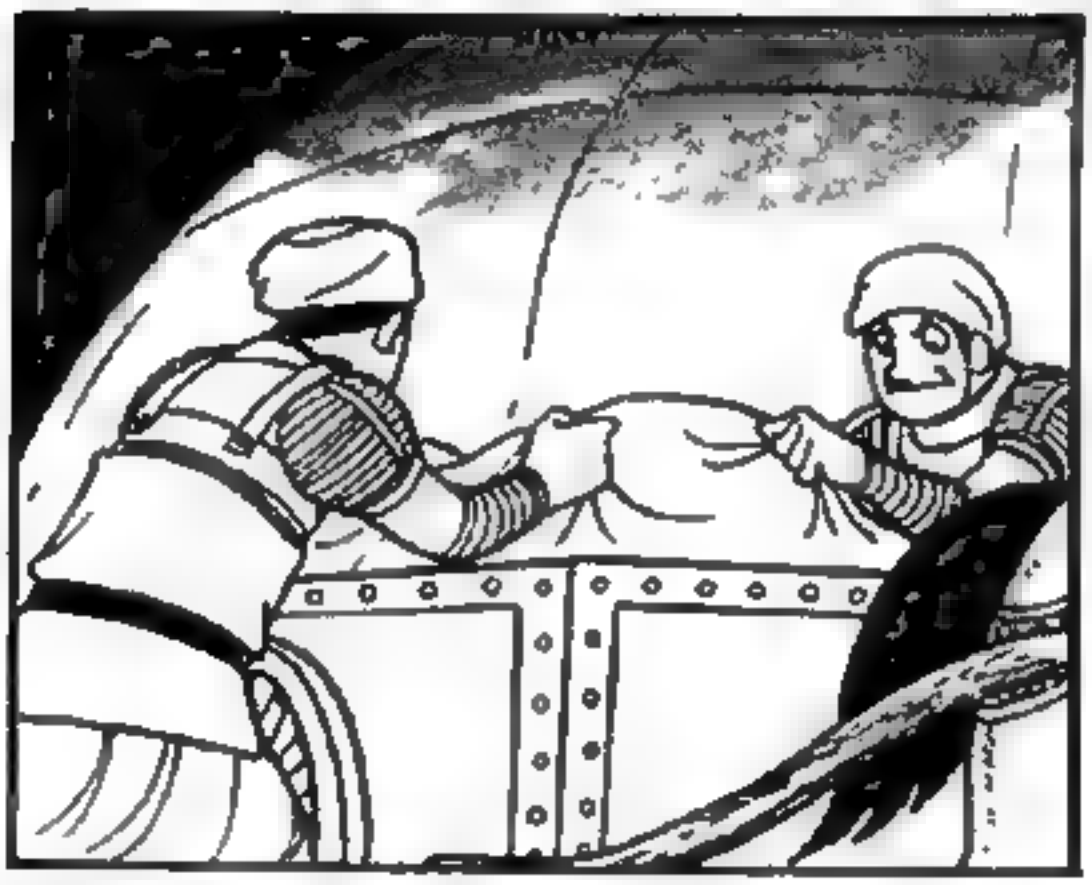

SNOREEE

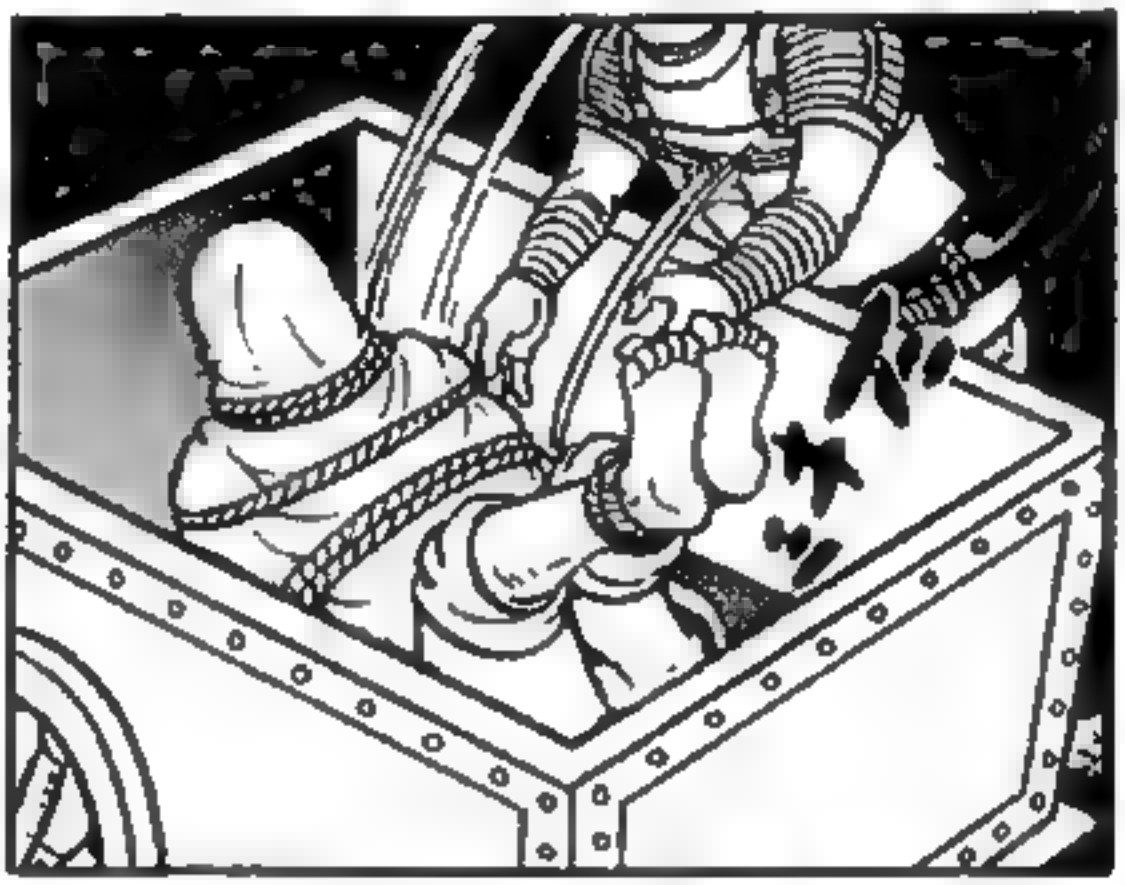
MNNF!

HM!?

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

THIS
WAY.

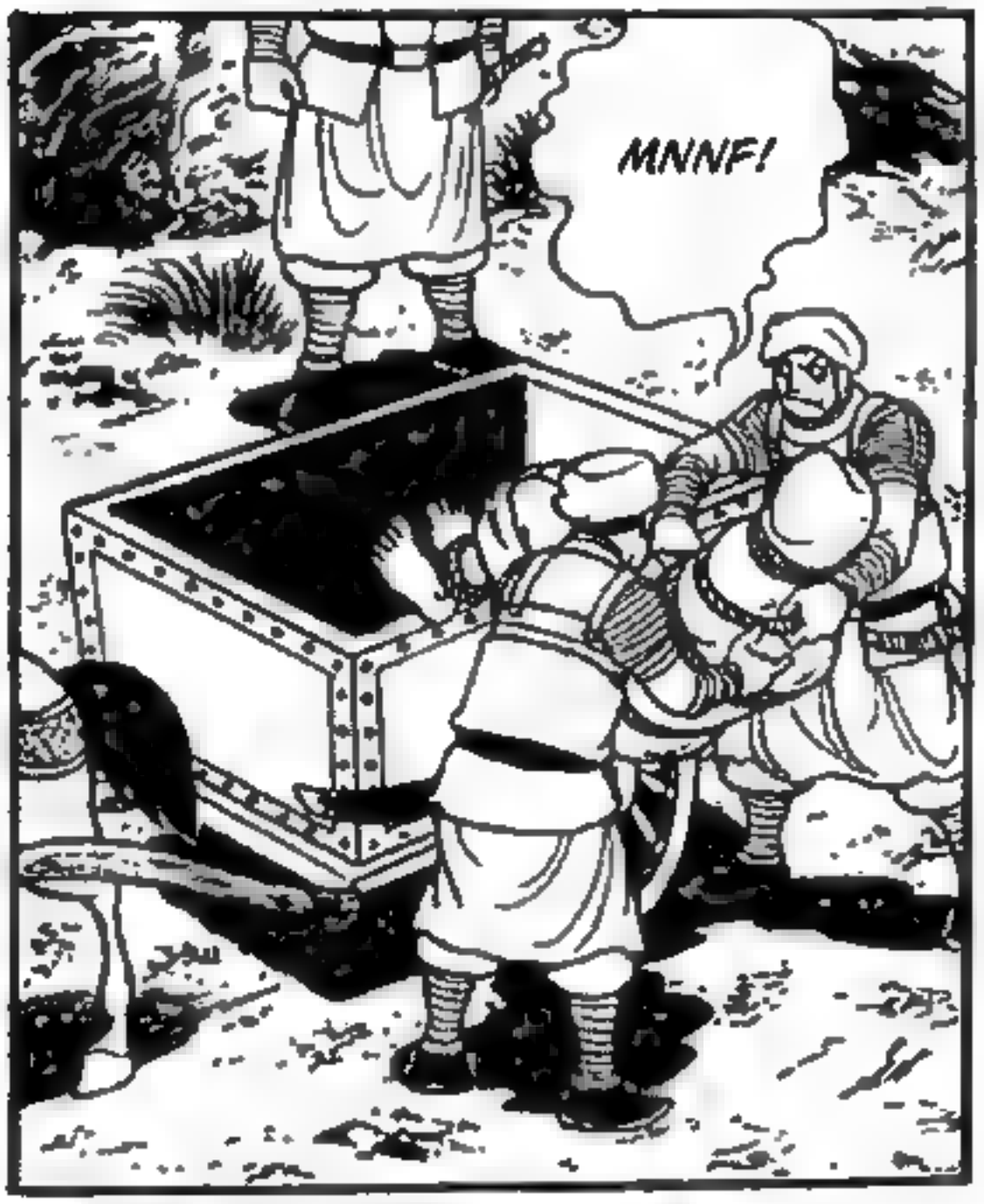




YES, SIR.

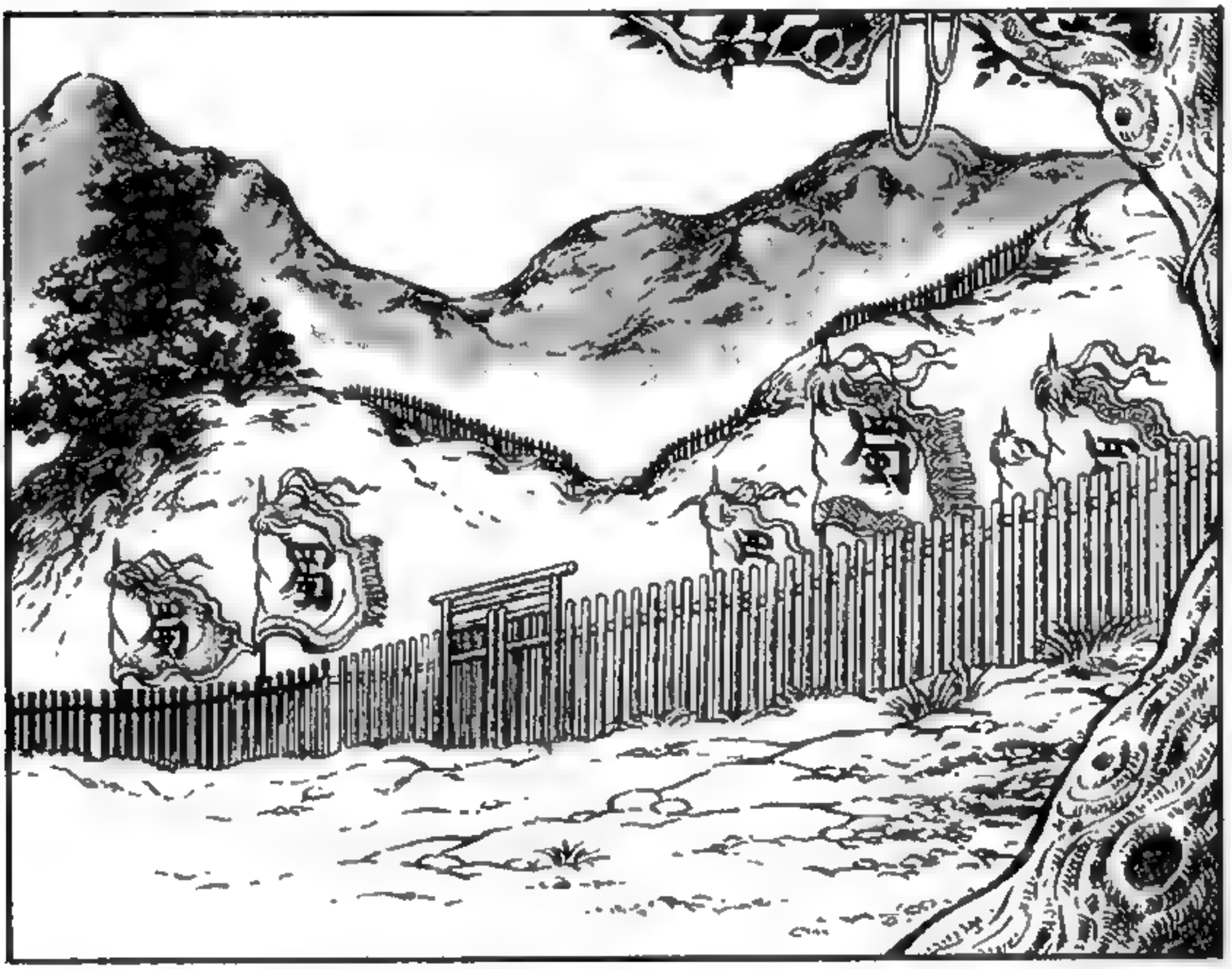
THAT WENT SMOOTHLY. LET'S HURRY TOWARDS THE SHU CAMPS.

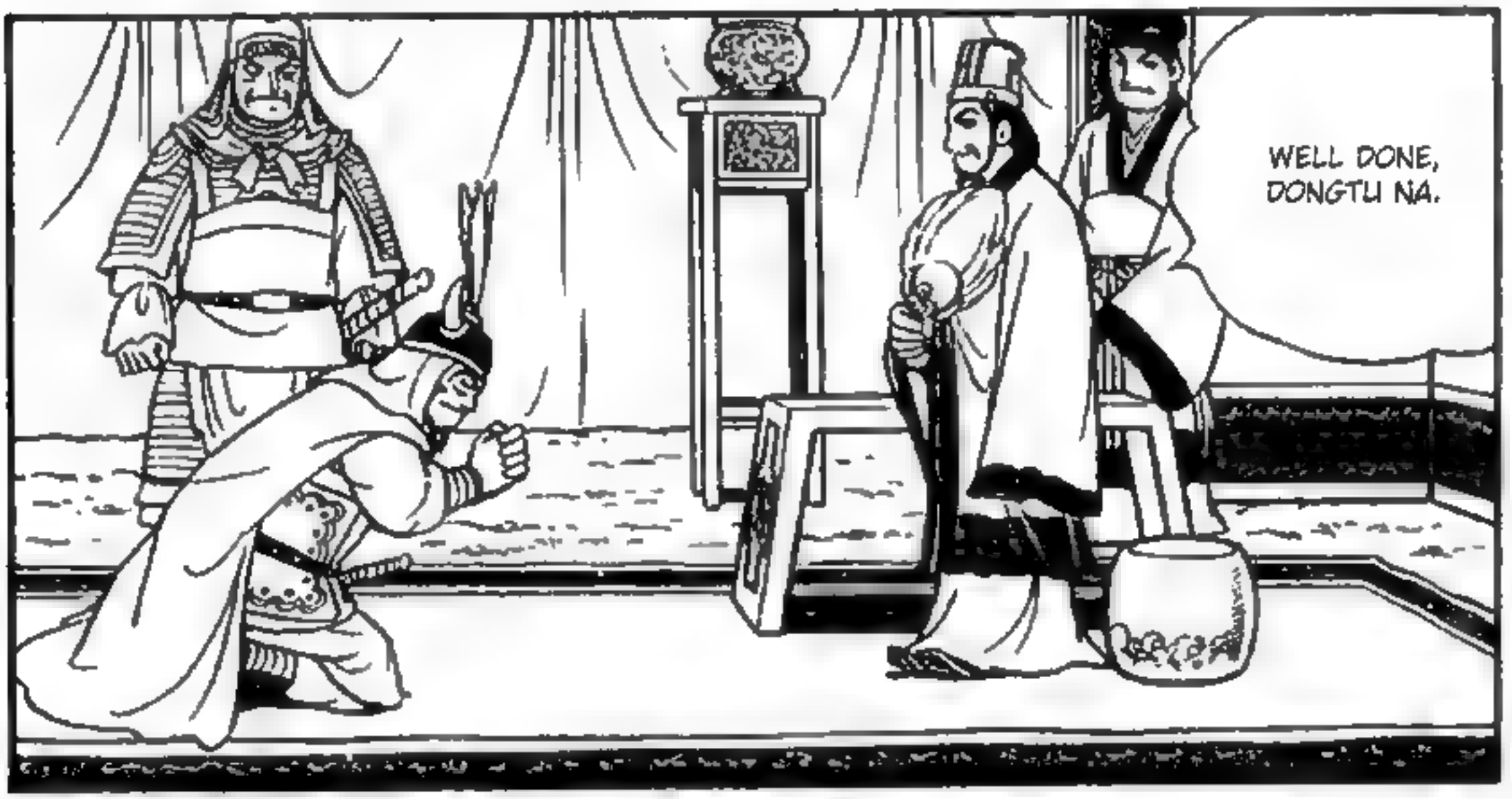
PUT HIM ON THE BOAT!


MNNF!

LET'S SET SAIL!

AGAIN CAPTURED AND RELEASED





YES, OF COURSE.

WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO DO VIOLENCE UNTO YOUR PEOPLE. IF ONLY THE OTHER NANMAN CHIEFS COULD FEEL THE SAME WAY AS YOU DO, WE WOULD WITHDRAW AT ONCE.

YES, SIR.

PLEASE CONVEY MY INTENTIONS TO THE OTHER CHIEFS, DONGTU NA.

YES, SIR.

GIVE A REWARD TO DONGTU NA.

I GRATE-
FULLY
ACEPT.

PLEASE
ACCEPT THIS
GOLD AND
SILVER,
GENERAL.

YES, SIR.
YOU MAY NOW RETURN
TO YOUR CAMPS.
I WILL CONTACT YOU
AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

YES, SIR.

BRING IN MENG HUO.

WELL, WELL. IT SEEMS YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT AGAIN.

HAHA, AS SPIRITED AS EVER, AREN'T YOU...

DON'T BE SO SMUG! I DID NOT LOSE IN WAR THIS TIME! IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE I WAS STABBED IN THE BACK BY A COWARD THAT I'M NOW HERE! I STILL REFUSE TO SURRENDER!

THEN I WOULD FIGHT ALONE!

WHAT IF THE OTHER TRIBAL CHIEFS WERE ALSO TO STOP SIDING WITH YOU?

IS THAT SO?

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'VE STILL YET TO PROPERLY BEAT ME!

YOU WOULD SERIOUSLY FIGHT ALL BY YOURSELF?

YES, SIR.
UNTIE HIM.
FOLLOW ME.

LOOK, MENG HUO. THESE ARE MY TROOPS.
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AND THESE ARE MY STORES OF GRAIN, ARMS, AND ARMOUR.

WILL YOU NOT CONSIDER SUBMITTING? IF YOU DO, I WILL HAVE THE EMPEROR FORMALLY RECOGNIZE YOU AS THE KING OF THE NANMANS. YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL RULE OVER THE NANMANS FOR GENERATIONS.

HMPH...

I HAVE PLENTY OF BRAVE SOLDIERS AND ENOUGH SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT THEM. YOU SAY YOU'RE WILLING TO FIGHT ALONE, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN WIN AGAINST MY ARMY?

HM...

WHY DON'T YOU RELEASE ME SO I CAN TELL THEM HOW STRONG YOUR ARMY IS AND THAT ANY RESISTANCE WILL LIKELY BE FUTILE.

MY SONS WILL BE KINGS FOR GENERA-TIONS...?

EVEN IF I WERE TO SUBMIT TO YOU NOW, THE OTHER NANMAN CHIEFS MAY STILL WISH TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT.

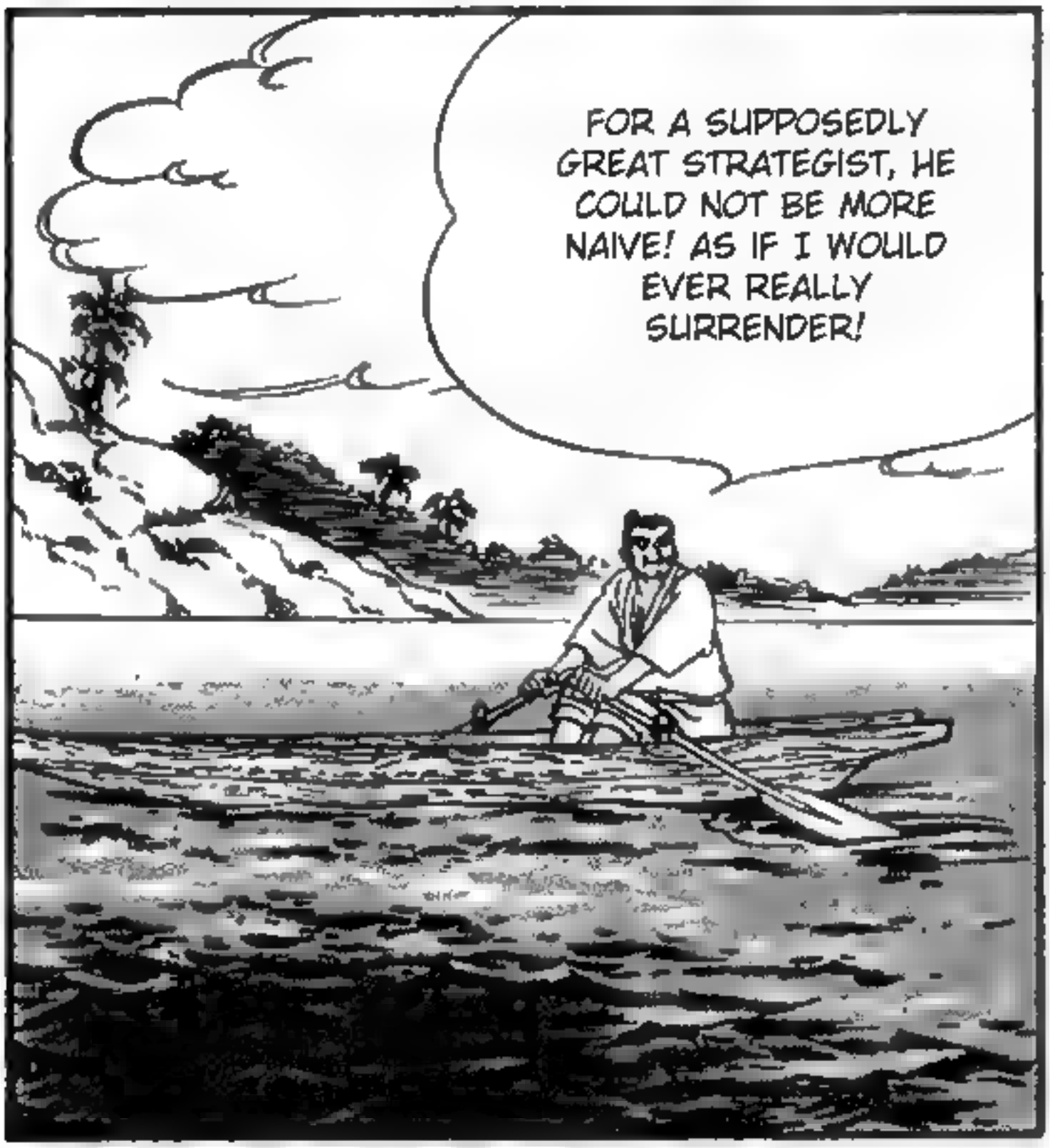
YOU WILL!?

VERY WELL, I WILL RELEASE YOU AGAIN.

YES, SIR.

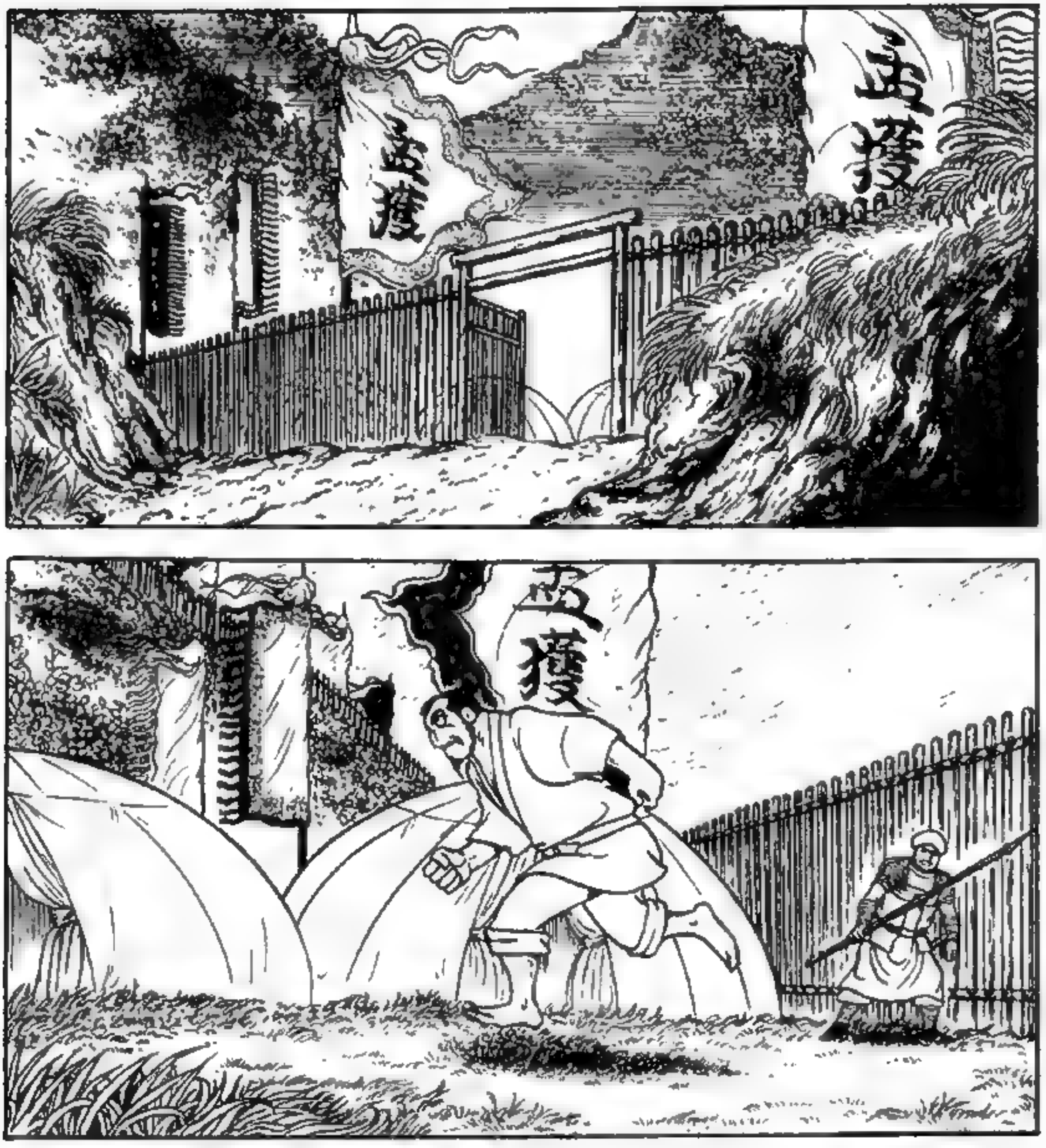
GIVE MENG HUO A HORSE HE CAN RIDE OUT TO THE LU RIVER.

YES, YES...
MENG HUO, I HAVE NEVER FAILED TO WIN A BATTLE OR FAILED TO CAPTURE A CITY I LAY SIEGE UPON. REMEMBER THIS WELL.
FINE.
NOW GO TO YOUR ALLIES AND CONVINCE THEM TO SUBMIT.


FOR A SUPPOSEDLY GREAT STRATEGIST, HE COULD NOT BE MORE NAIVE! AS IF I WOULD EVER REALLY SURRENDER!

HEH...

AHAHAHAHA!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THE MEN HAVE BEEN PANICKING OVER YOUR SUDDEN ABSENCE, SIR!
KING MENG HUO!?

EVEN SO, KONGMING WAS UNABLE TO KILL ME. DO YOU KNOW WHY?

WHAT!

ONE OF THE CHIEFS SOLD ME OUT TO KONGMING BY ABDUCTING ME AT NIGHT.

THAT IS BECAUSE I AM THE IMMORTAL KING! I SIEZED THEIR SWORDS AND FOUGHT MY WAY OUT OF THEIR CAMPS!

HE'S CURRENTLY SITTING IN HIS CAMPS.

WHAT!

DONGTU NA.

WHO WAS THE CHIEF THAT BETRAYED YOU?

ALTHOUGH I DID NOT SEE HIS FACE DURING THE ABDUCTION, I COULD TELL BY THE VOICE IT WAS HIM FOR CERTAIN.

HMPH, HE MUST BE FEIGNING IGNORANCE AFTER RETURNING FROM THE ENEMY CAMPS.

NO! FIGHTING AMONGST OUR RANKS IS EXACTLY WHAT KONGMING WANTS!

THEN SHOULD WE ATTACK HIS CAMPS?

YES, SIR.

SAY THAT A MESSENGER HAS ARRIVED FROM KONGMING TO NEGOTIATE PEACE TERMS. ALL THE CHIEFS INCLUDING HIM ARE TO ATTEND THE MEETING HERE.

DONGTU NA SHOULD HAVE NO IDEA THAT I'M BACK...

WAIT!

YES, SIR.
IF DONGTU NA BETRAYED ME, THEN I CAN'T FULLY TRUST AHUI NAN EITHER. SEND THE SAME MESSAGE TO HIM AS WELL.
YES, SIR.
I WANT YOU GUARDS TO HIDE BEHIND THE TENTS AND KILL THEM WHEN THEY COME.

OUR KING IS WILLING TO SUBMIT?

YES, TO NEGOTIATE PEACE TERMS AS PUT FORWARD BY KING MENG HUO.

A MESSENGER FROM KONGMING?

GOOD.

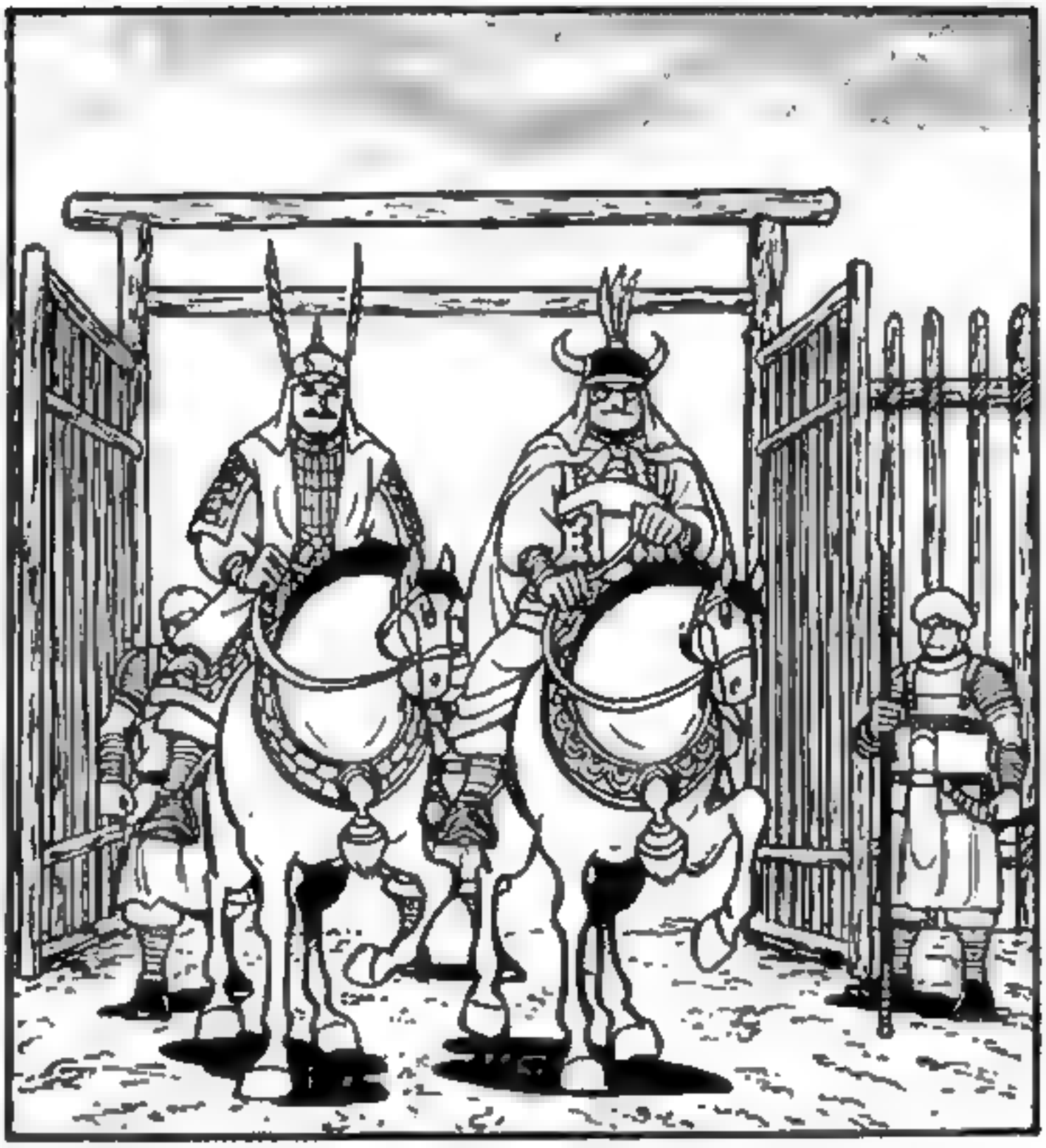
EXCELLENT, I WILL ATTEND THE MEETING AT ONCE

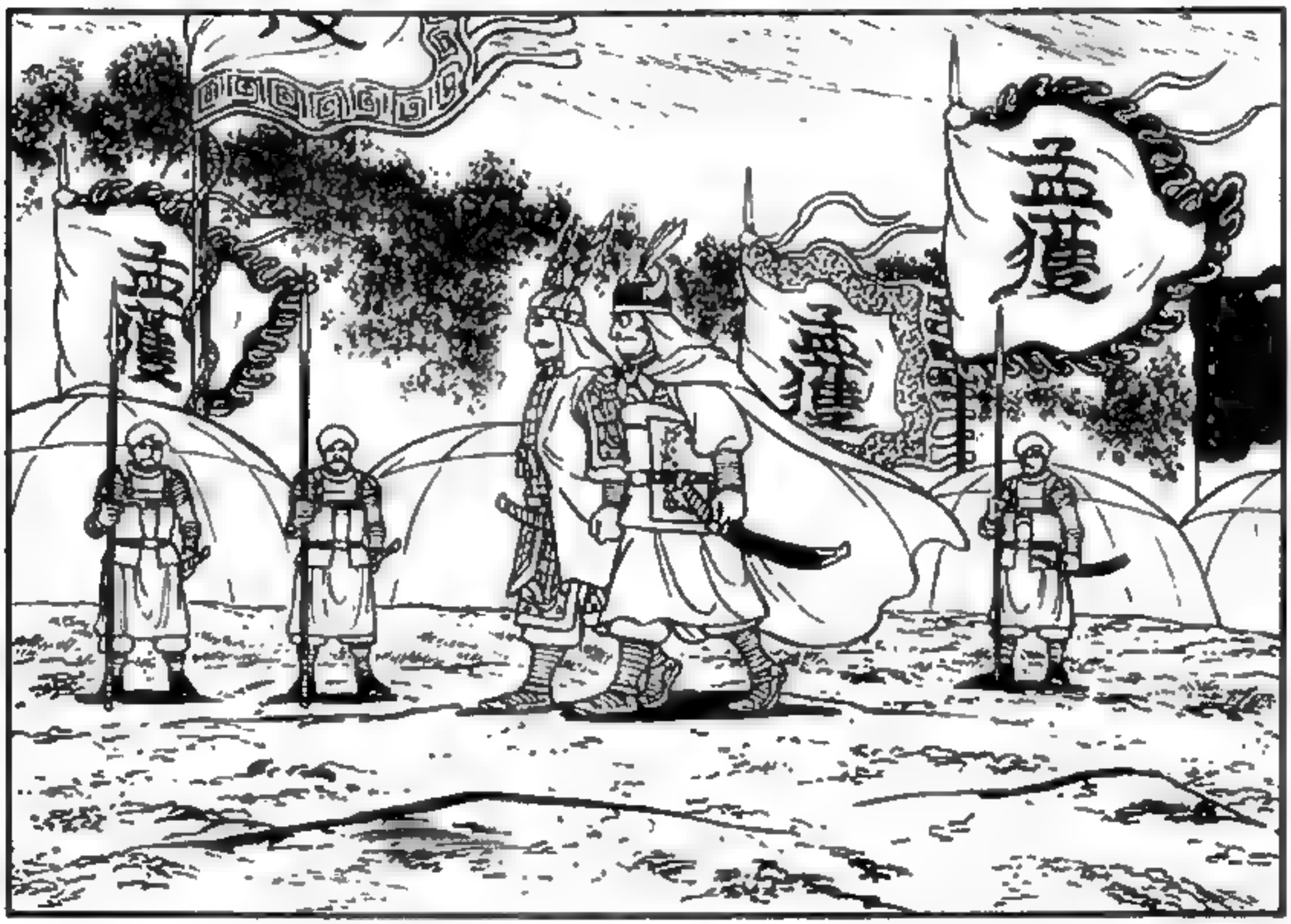
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS, DONGTU NA?

AHUI NAN!

I SUPPOSE KING MENG HUO FINALLY REALIZED HE COULD NOT BEST THE SHU ARMY.

YES, IT SEEMS PEACE IS TO BE NEGOTIATED AT LAST.





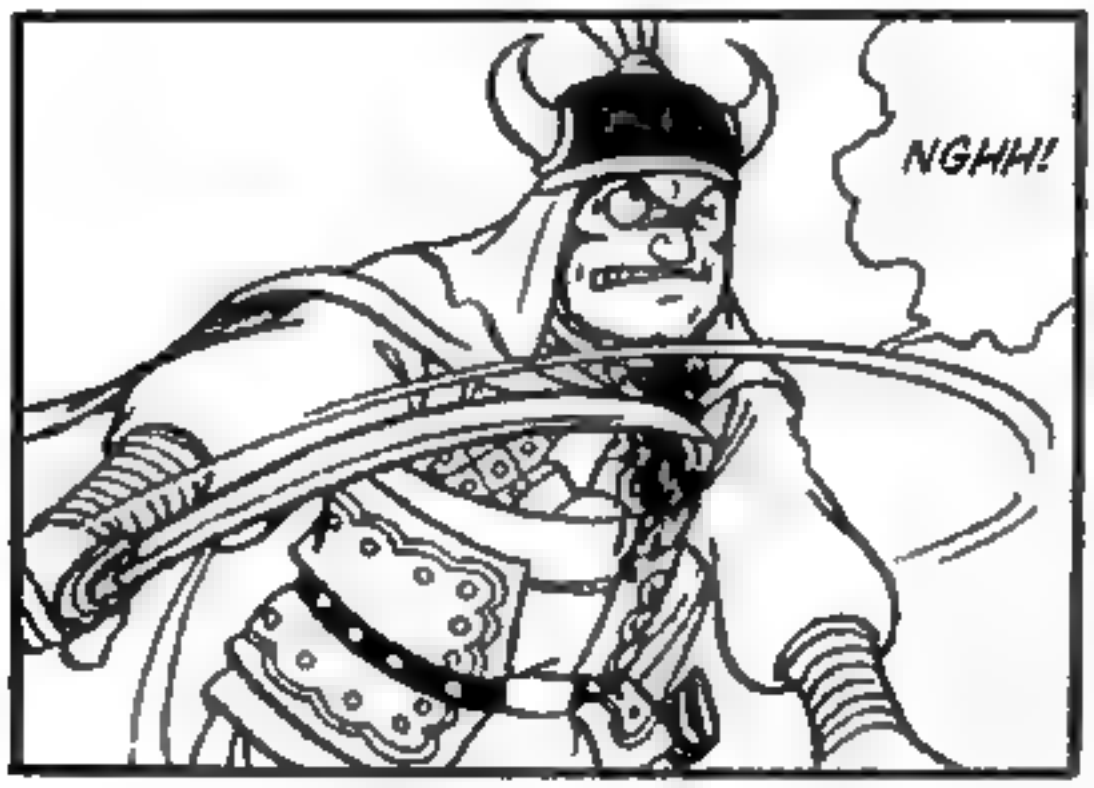
AGHH!

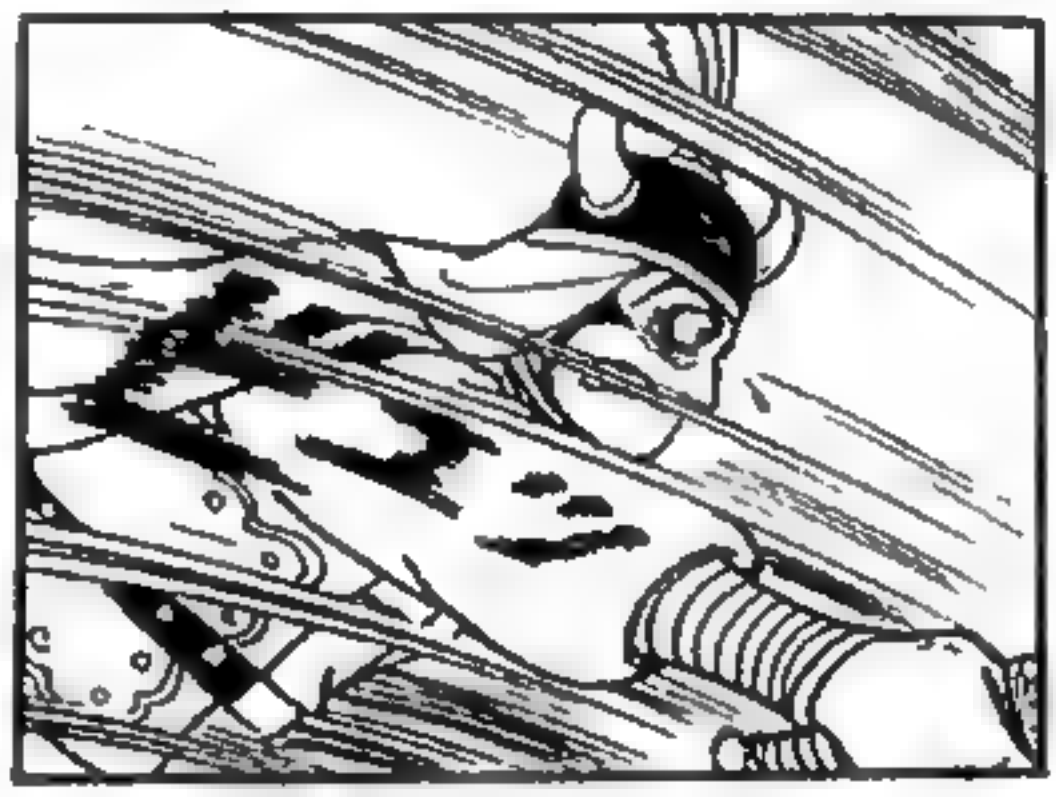
WELCOME, DONGTU NA. ALLOW ME TO RETURN THE FAVOUR OF STABBING ME IN THE BACK.

UGHH!

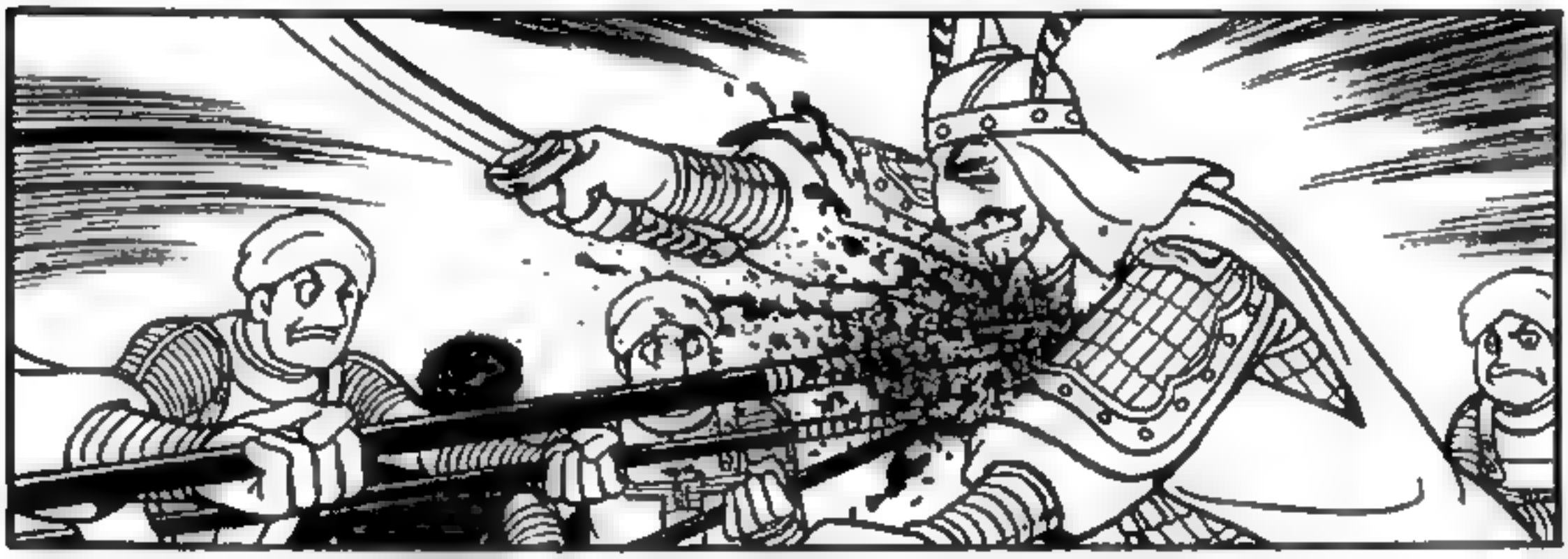
WHAT'S THE... BIG IDEA...?

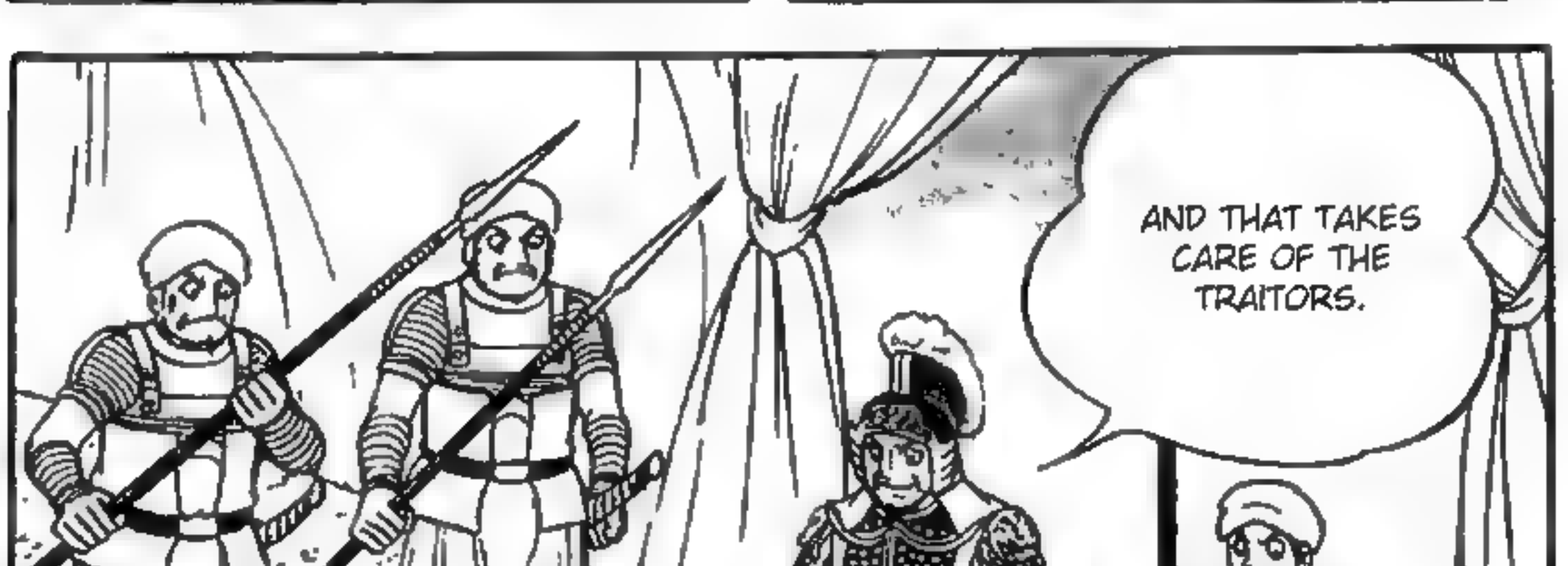
KILL THE TRAITOR!

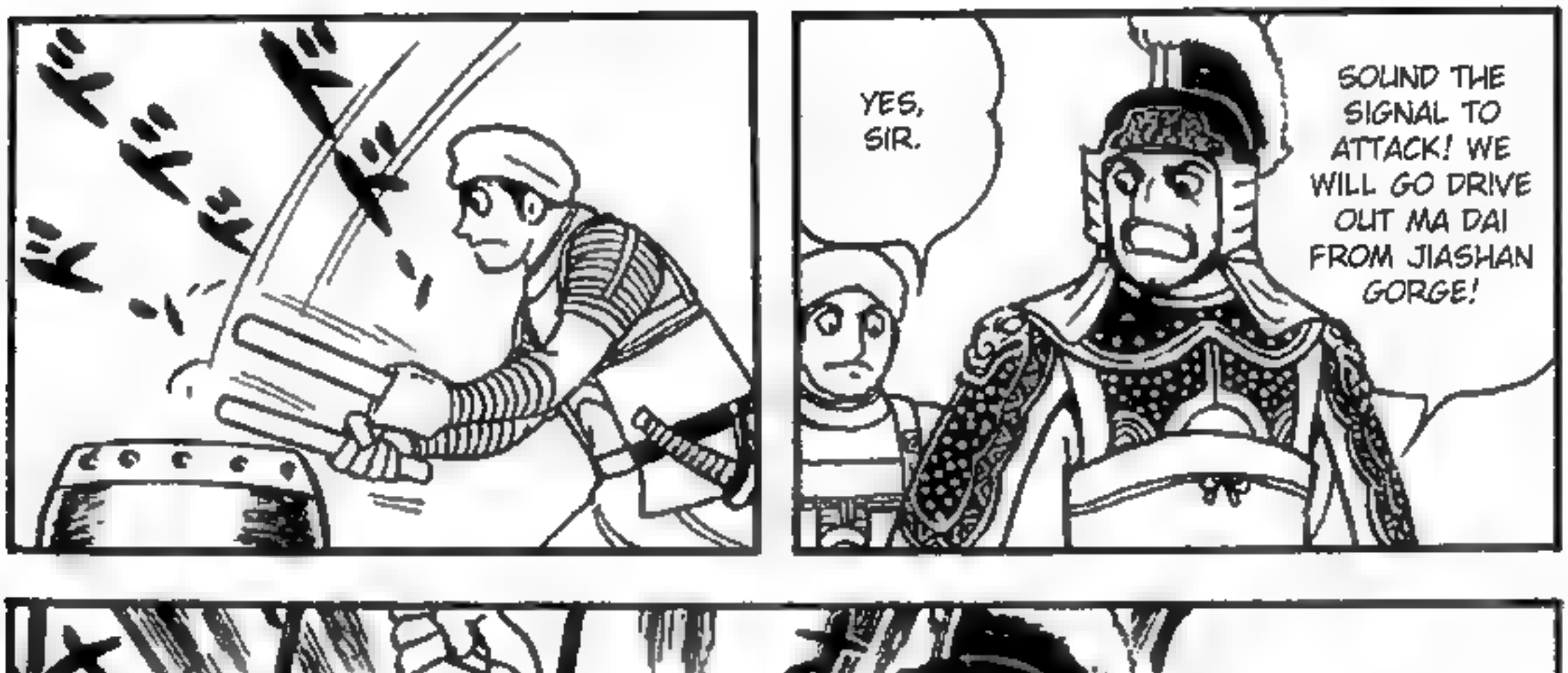

NGHH!

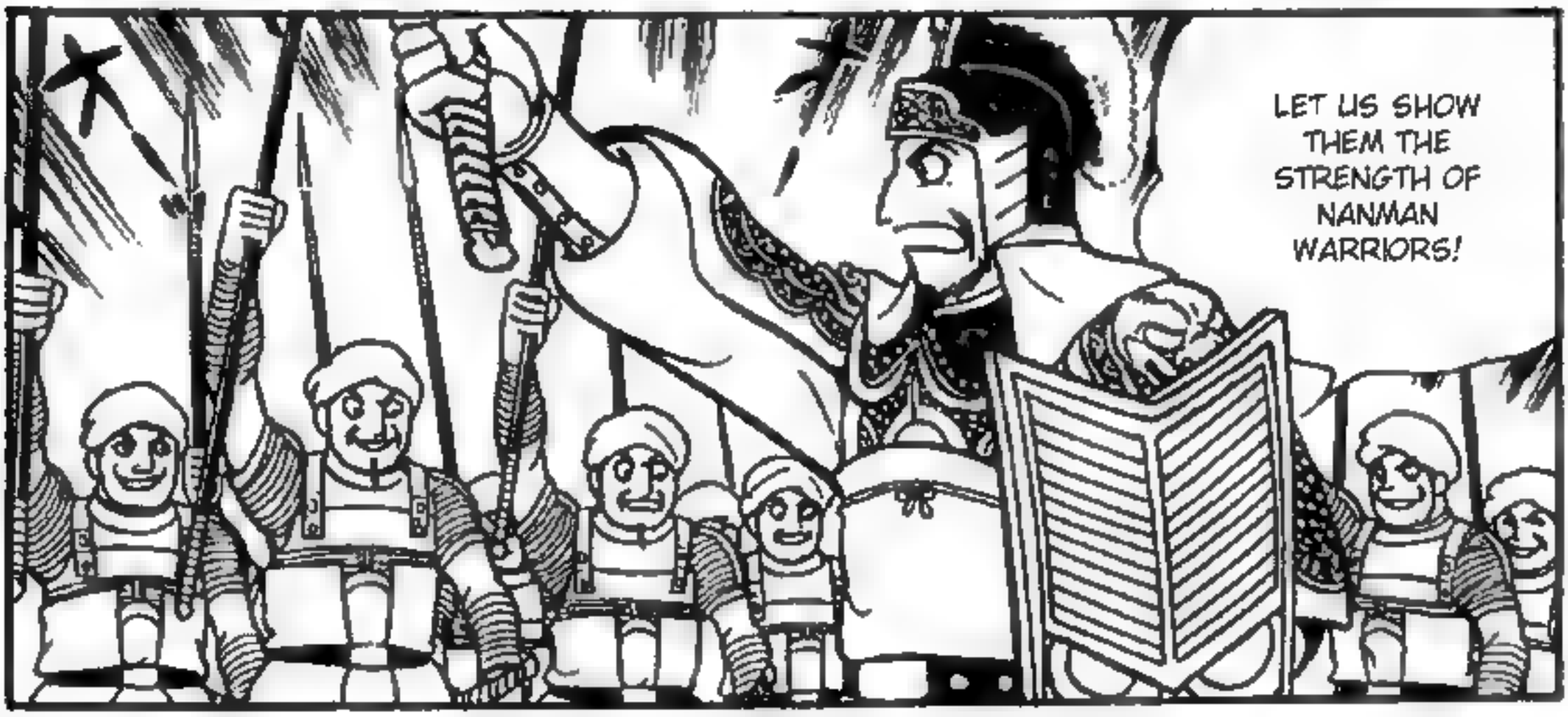


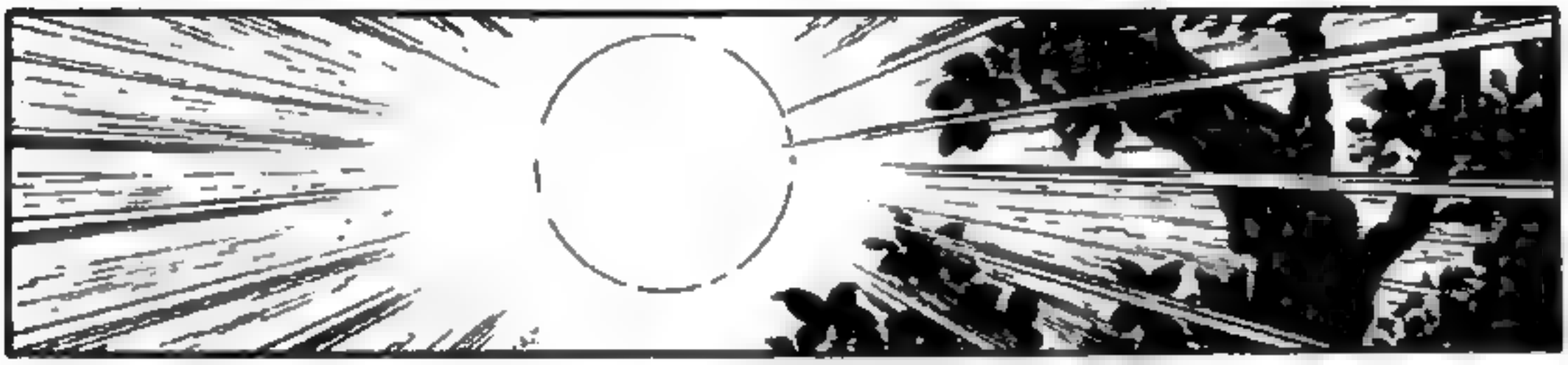
AGHHHHH!

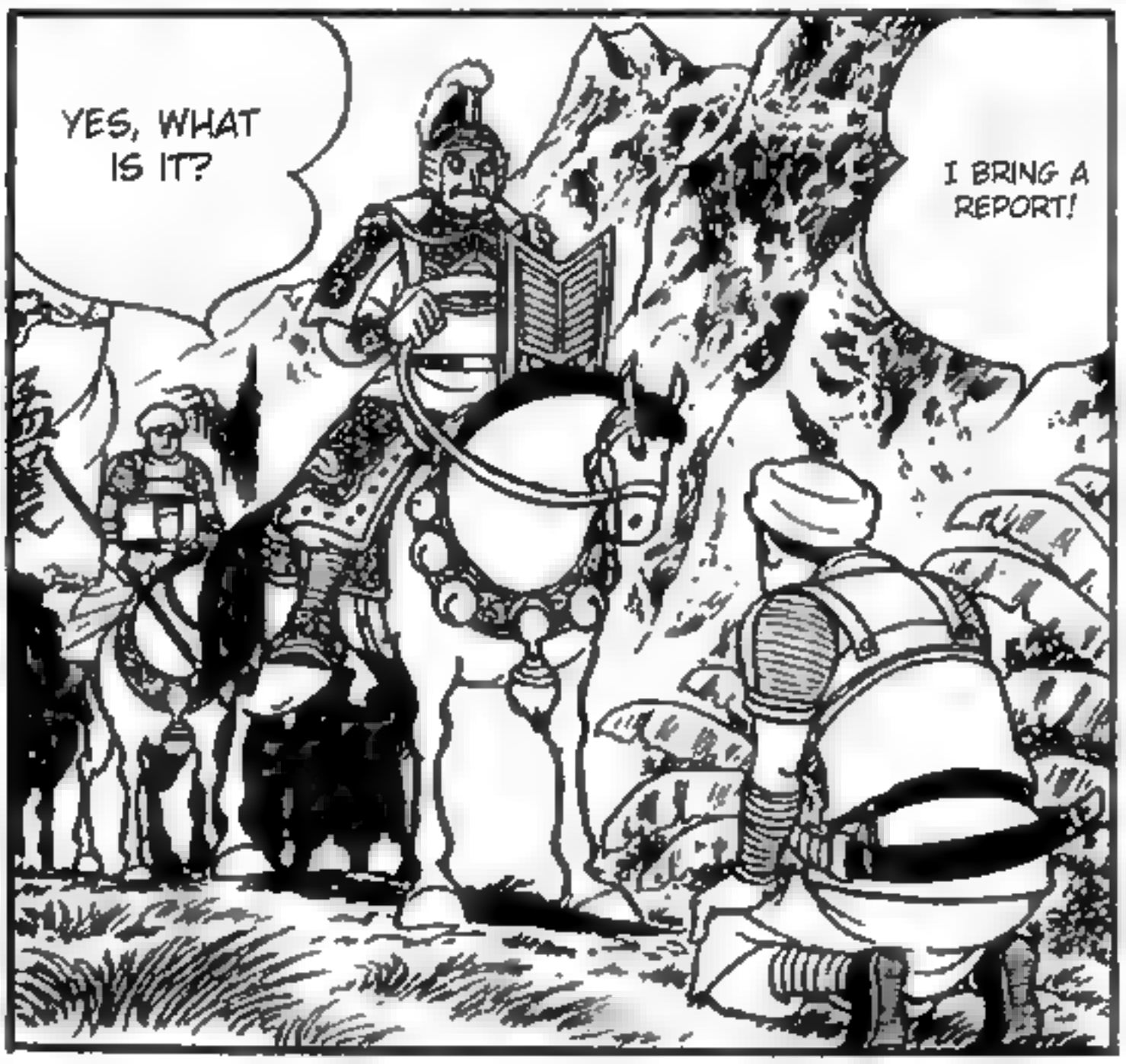



AND THAT TAKES CARE OF THE TRAITORS.


YES, SIR.
SOUND THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK! WE WILL GO DRIVE OUT MA DAI FROM JIASHAN GORGE!

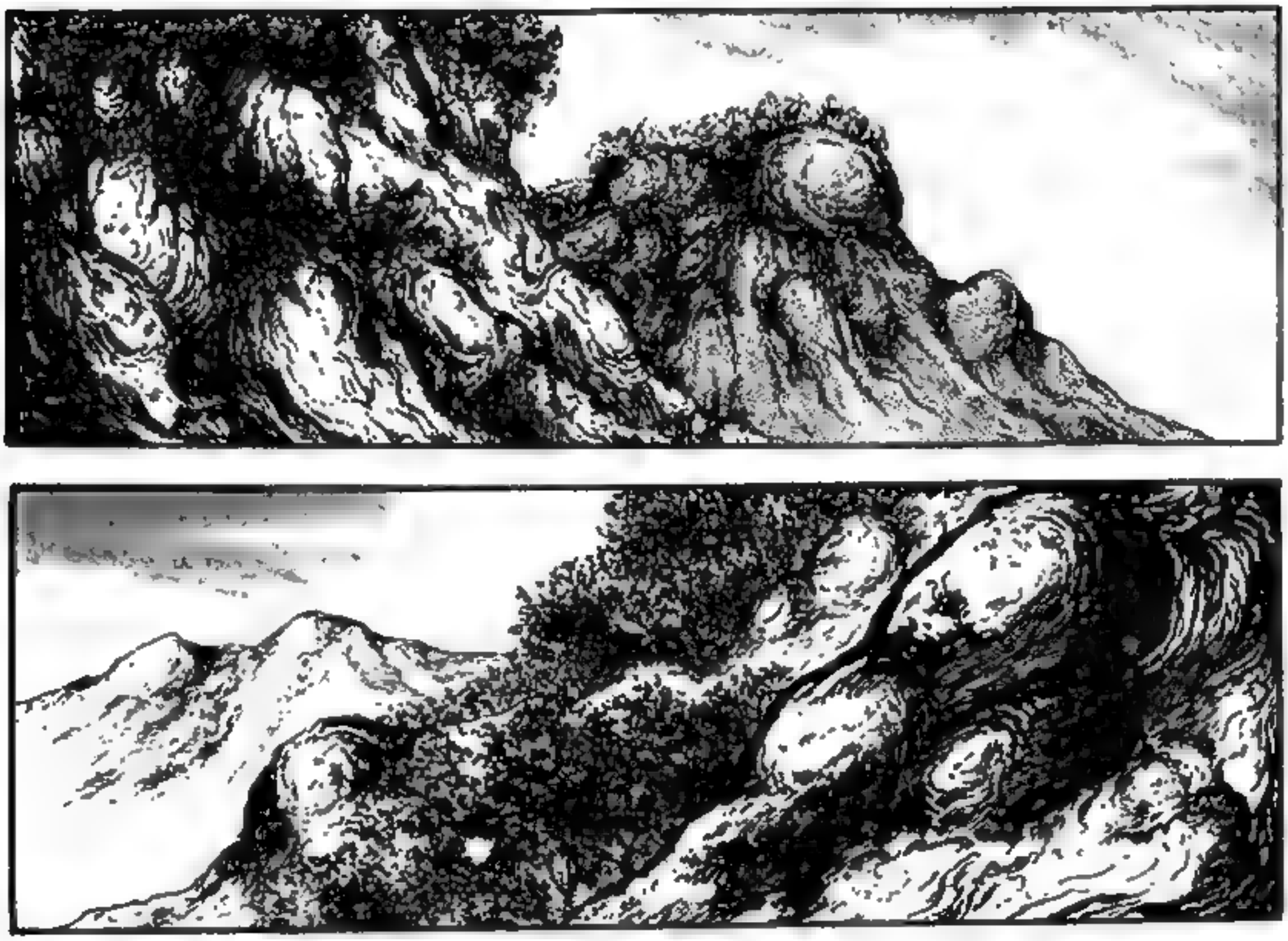

LET US SHOW THEM THE STRENGTH OF NANMAN WARRIORS!




YES, WHAT IS IT?
I BRING A REPORT!

WHAT?
THE SHU TROOPS ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND AT JIASHAN GORGE.

WE MUST PURSUE THEM!



HM?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE SCOUT WAS RIGHT. NOT A SINGLE FLAG OR ENEMY SHADOW IN SIGHT...

Y-YES?

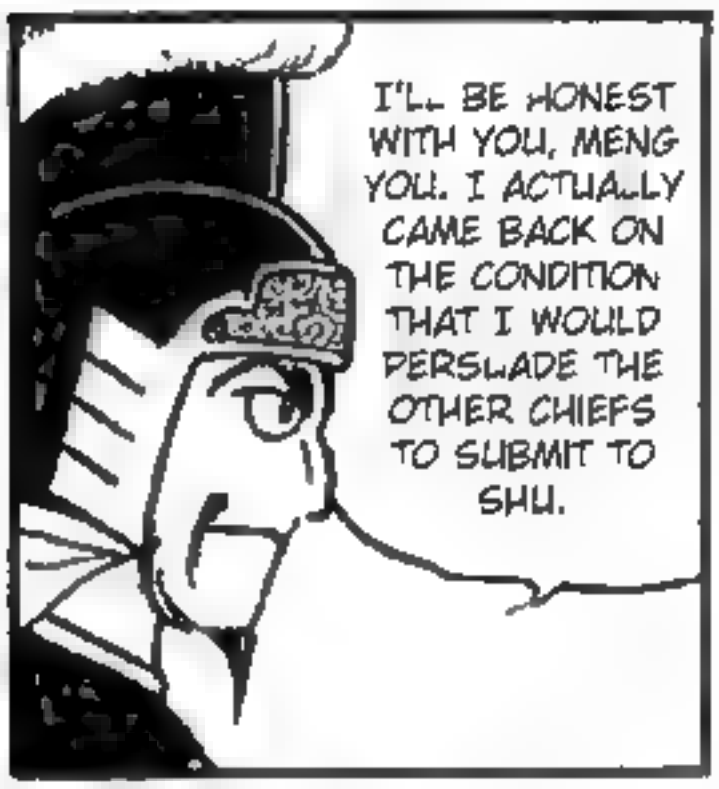
YOU THERE!

2 DAYS AGO!?

AH YES, THEY WITHDREW FROM HERE 2 DAYS AGO.
HAVE YOU SEEN ANY HAN TROOPS AROUND THESE PARTS?

YES, SIR.

HMM...


I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU, MENG YOU. I ACTUALLY CAME BACK ON THE CONDITION THAT I WOULD PERSUADE THE OTHER CHIEFS TO SUBMIT TO SHU.

HM...
BROTHER, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

NO, THAT WAS SIMPLY TO PREVENT THE OTHER CHIEFS FROM BEING DEMORALIZED.
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT?

WHAT FOR?

I WANT YOU TO BE MY MES-SENGER.

BUT KONGMING SHOULD GLADLY RECEIVE MY MESSENGER RIGHT NOW.

YES, I WILL ATTACK FROM OUTSIDE WHILE YOU SET THEIR TENTS ON FIRE AND CREATE MAYHEM FROM WITHIN.

AH, SO WE CATCH THEM OFF GUARD?

TELL KONGMING THAT I HAVE PERSUADED THE CHIEFS AND WILL SOON ARRIVE IN PERSON TO SURRENDER. THAT WAY, THE SHU CAMPS WILL LET DOWN THEIR GUARDS AND BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO A NIGHT RAID.

RIGHT, RIGHT...

AS FOR THE SPE-CIFICS...

WHISPER WHISPER

AN EXCELLENT PLAN, BROTHER!

VICTORY WILL SURELY BE OURS.

YES, HE'S ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY 100 SOLDIERS.

MENG HUO'S BROTHER HAS COME BEARING GIFTS?

YES, SIR.

LET HIM IN THEN.

WELCOME, I AM ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING.

I AM KING MENG HOU'S YOUNGER BROTHER, MENG YOU.

AND WHERE IS HE NOW?

MY BROTHER HAS SENT ME TO DELIVER GIFTS TO YOU FOR SPARING HIS LIFE.

AH, EXCELLENT. I AM MOST PLEASED.

HE HAS PERSUADED THE OTHER CHIEFS AS PROMISED AND IS NOW AT SILVER PIT RAVINE TO COLLECT ADEQUATE TRIBUTE TO PRESENT TO THE EMPEROR.

YES, SIR.

PREPARE FOOD AND WINE FOR OUR GUESTS.

YES.

PLEASE COME THIS WAY, SIR.

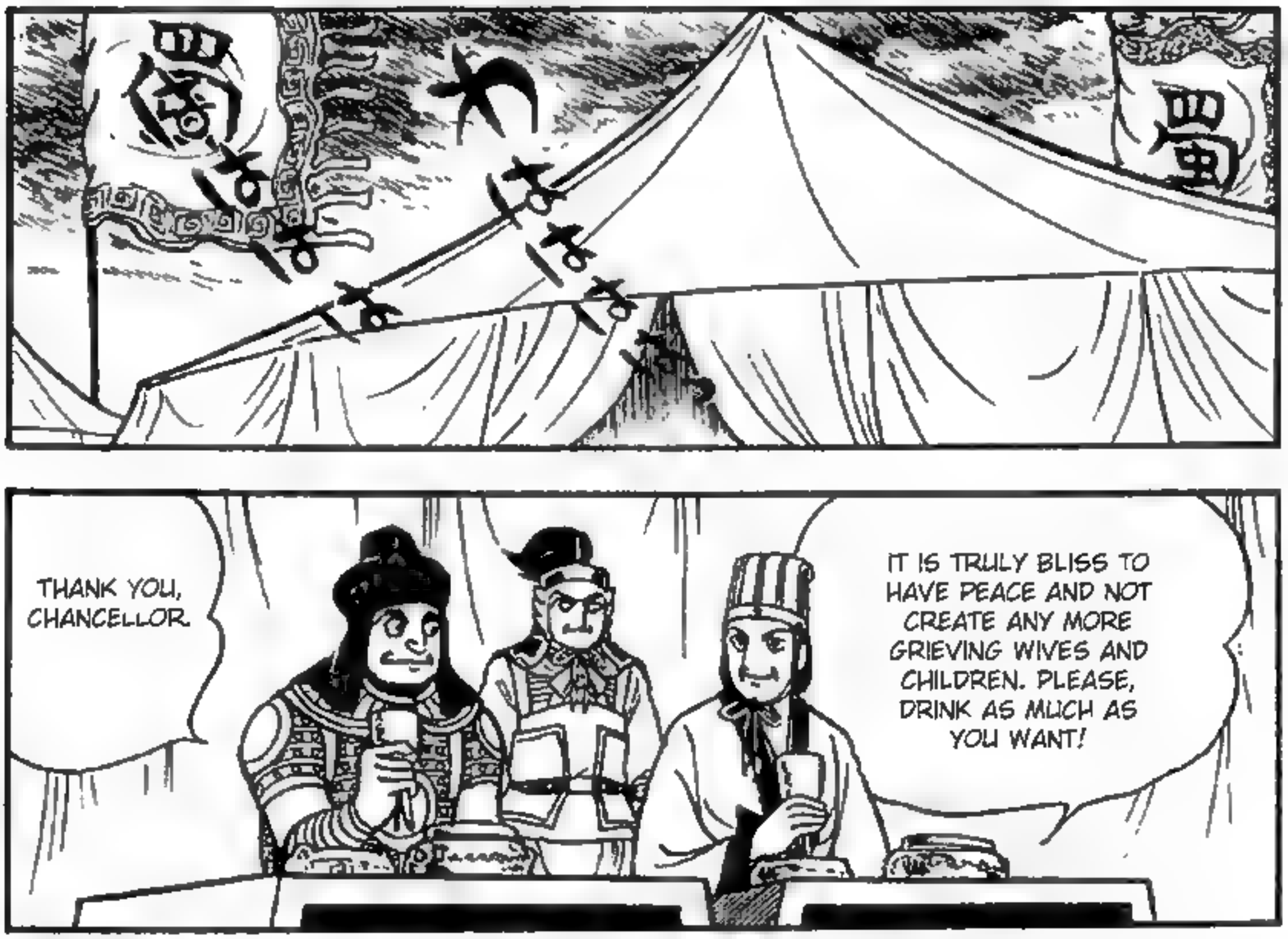
THIS IS WHAT I AM THINKING...

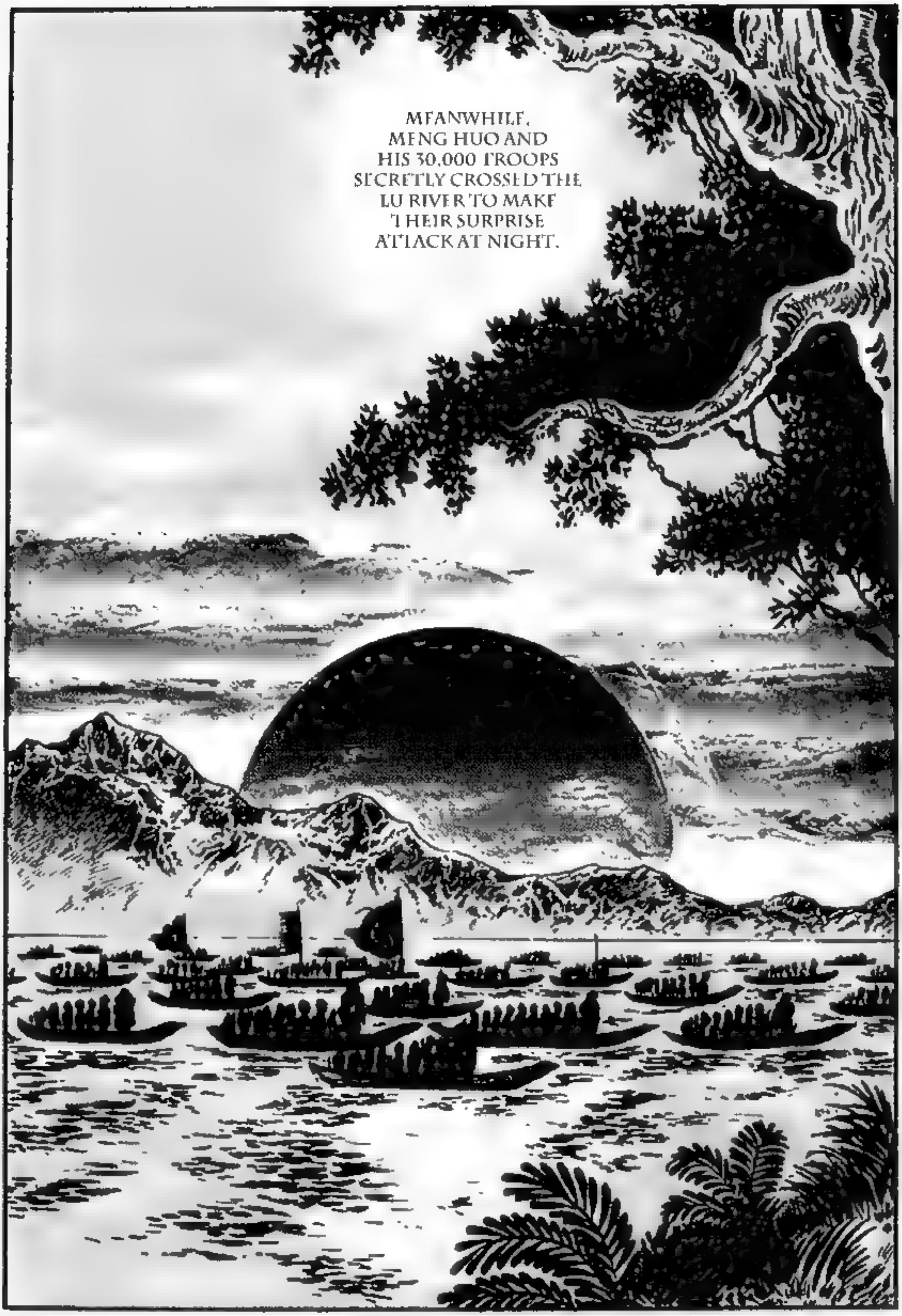
YES, MA SU?

CHAN-CELLOR

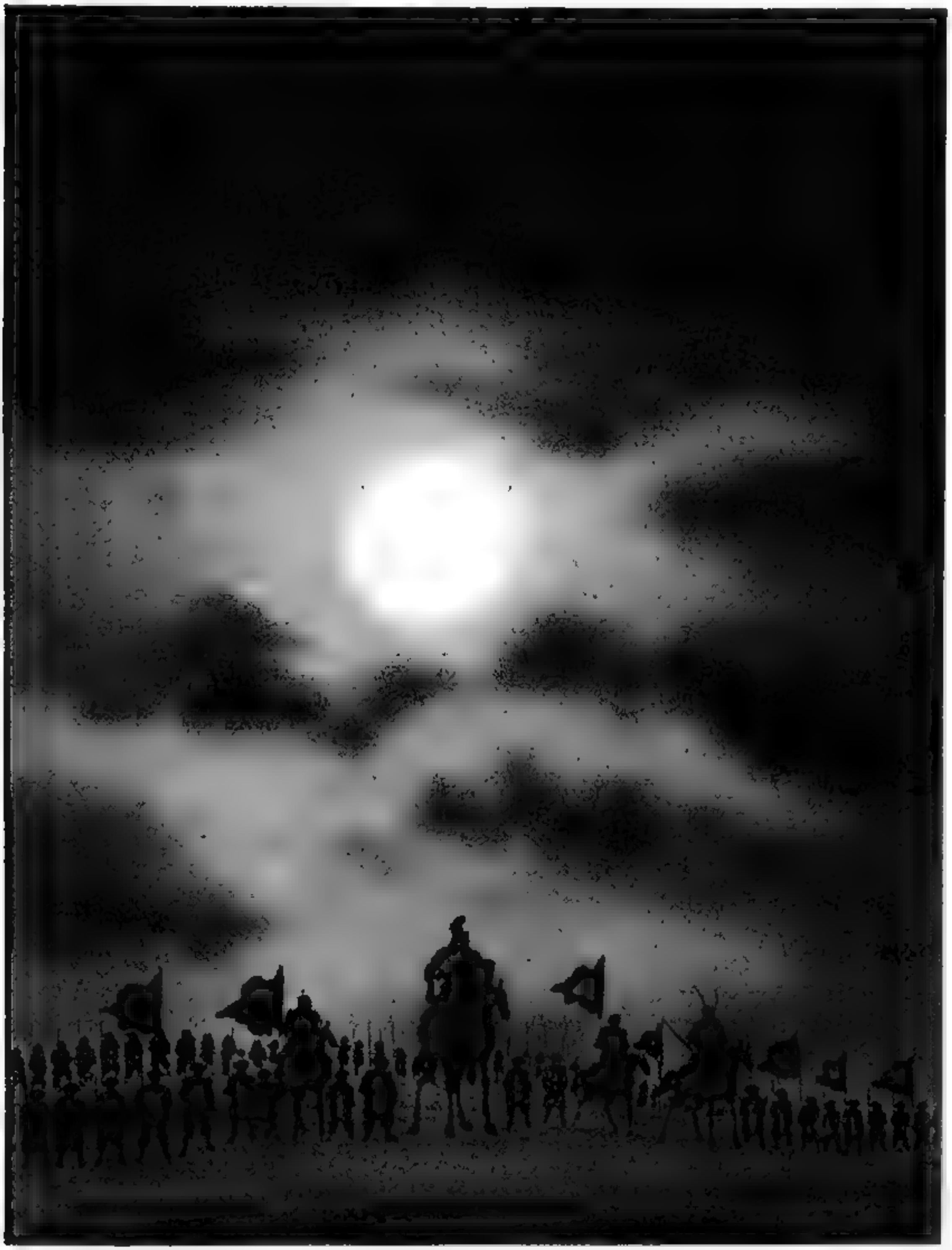
WORRY NOT, FOR I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN APPROPRI-ATE ACTION.

HAHA! YOU THINK SO TOO? I THOUGHT JUST AS MUCH.


THANK YOU, CHANCELLOR.
IT IS TRULY BLISS TO HAVE PEACE AND NOT CREATE ANY MORE GRIEVING WIVES AND CHILDREN. PLEASE, DRINK AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!


MEANWHILE,
MENG HUO AND
HIS 30,000 TROOPS
SECRETLY CROSSED THE
LU RIVER TO MAKE
THEIR SURPRISE
ATTACK AT NIGHT.

SURPRISE ATTACK AT NIGHT



MY YOUNGER BROTHER SENT YOU?
I BRING A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MENG YOU, SIR
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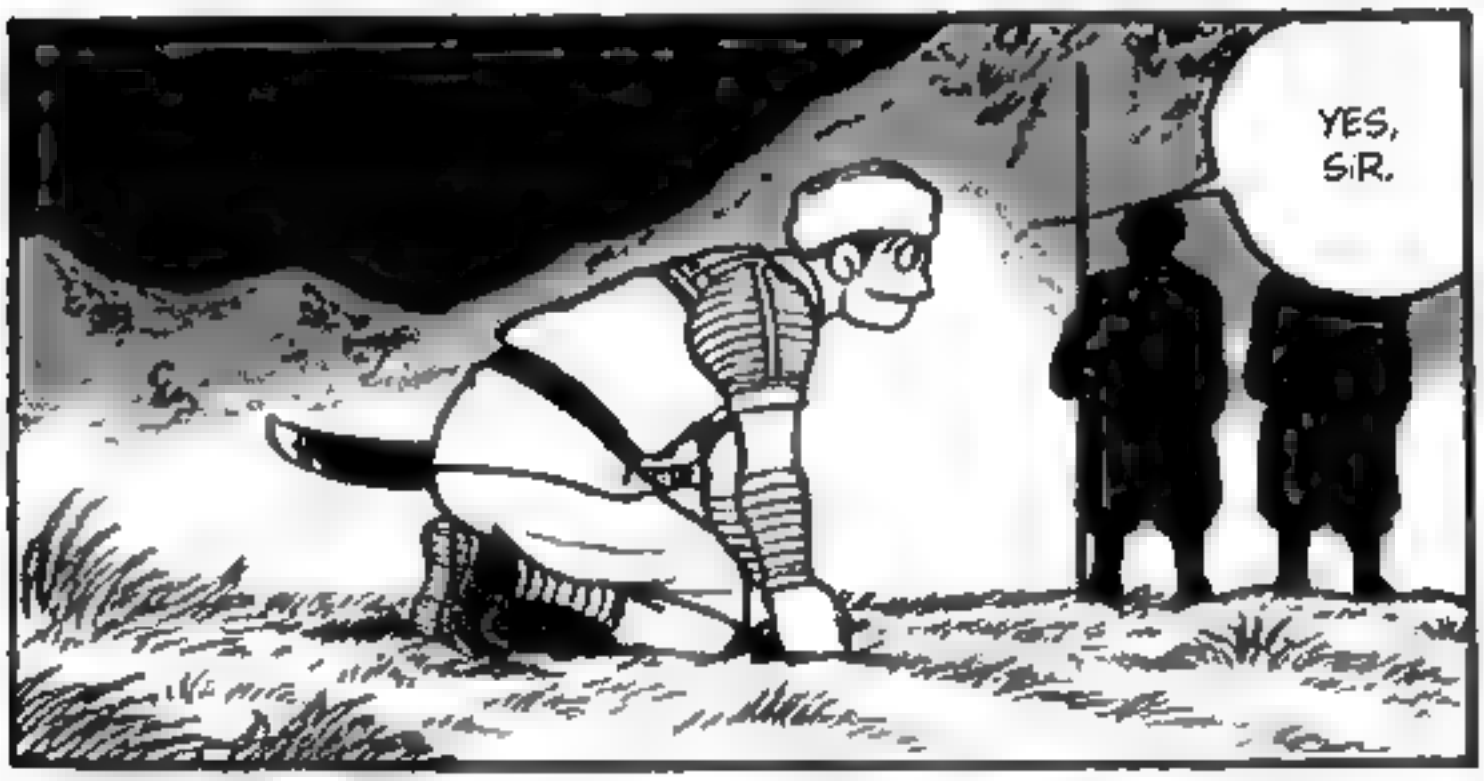
AFTER PRESENTING KONGMING WITH GIFTS, HE HAS BEEN LAVISHLY RECEIVED WITH FOOD AND WINE.

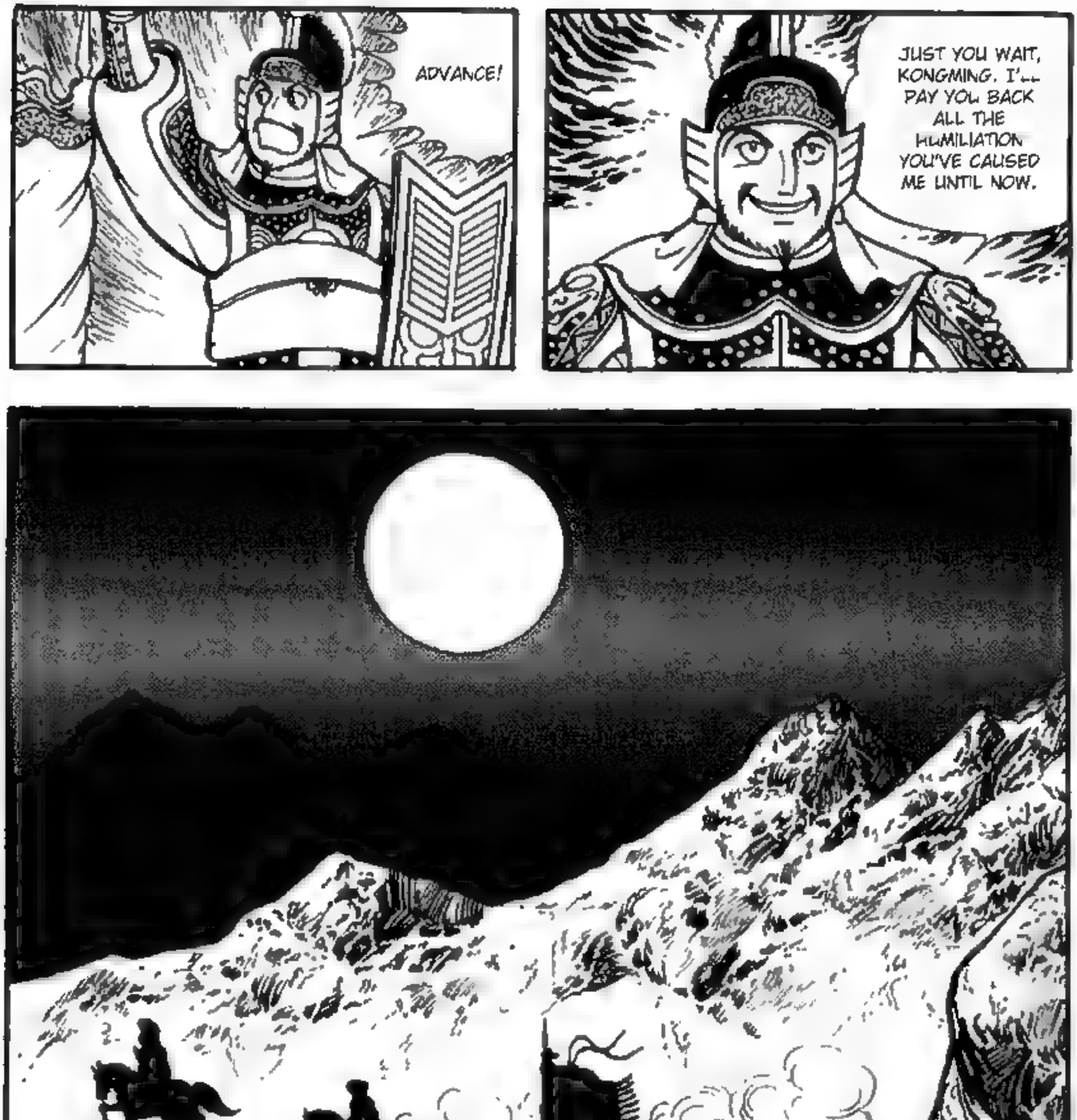
HOW IS HE DOING?

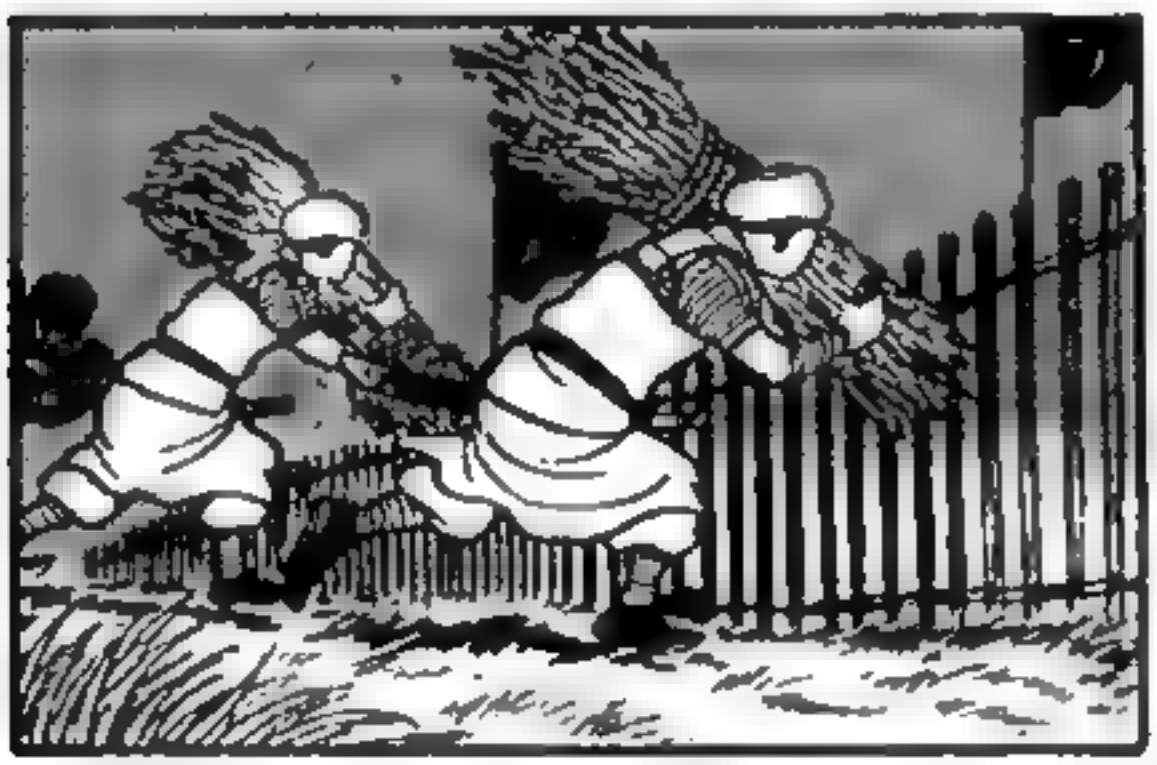
HE ASKS YOU TO BEGIN THE ATTACK ONCE HE STARTS BEATING THE DRUMS AS A SIGNAL.

SO HE MANAGED TO CONVINCE KONGMING TO LET DOWN HIS GUARD, DID HE?


YES, SIR.

GOOD, TELL HIM I'VE RECEIVED HIS MESSAGE.


ADVANCE!
JUST YOU WAIT, KONGMING. I'LL PAY YOU BACK ALL THE HUMILIATION YOU'VE CAUSED ME UNTIL NOW.

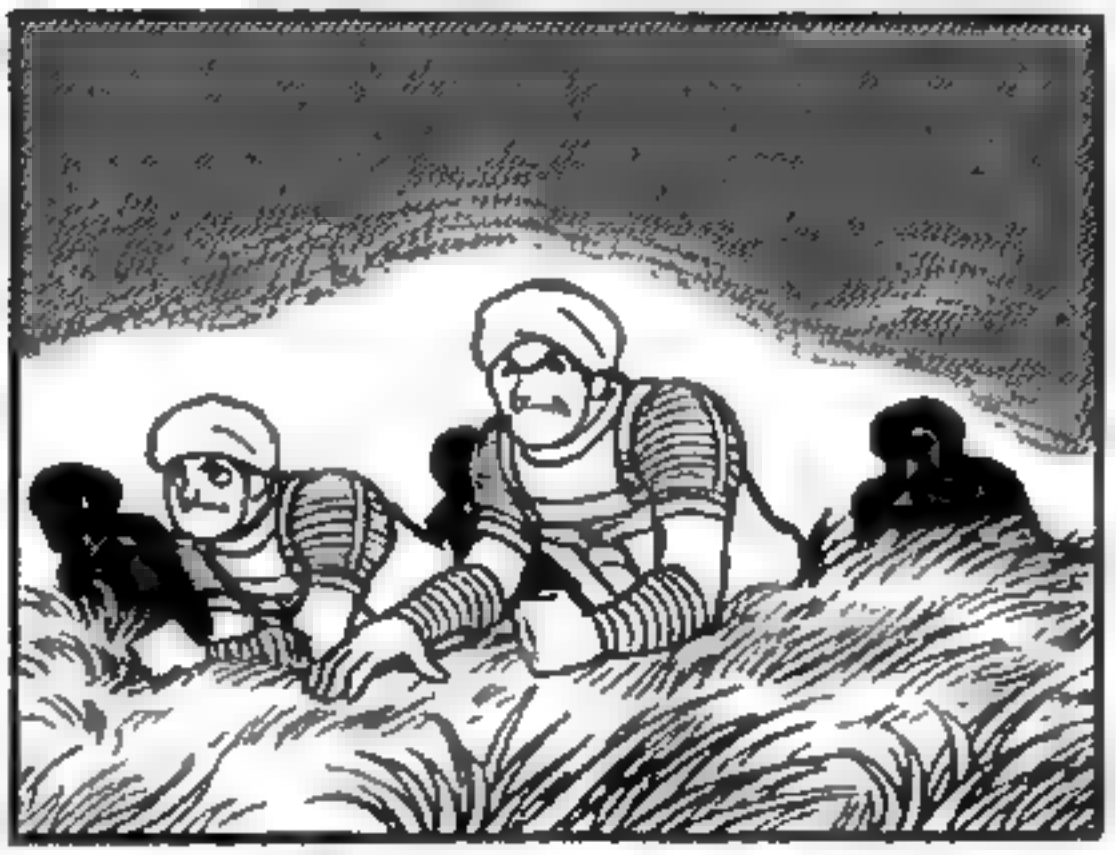


COMMENCE THE ATTACK BY FIRE ONCE WE RECIEVE THE SIGNAL.

GOOD.

THE PREPARATIONS FOR SETTING THEIR CAMPS ON FIRE ARE COMPLETE, SIR.

YES, SIR.



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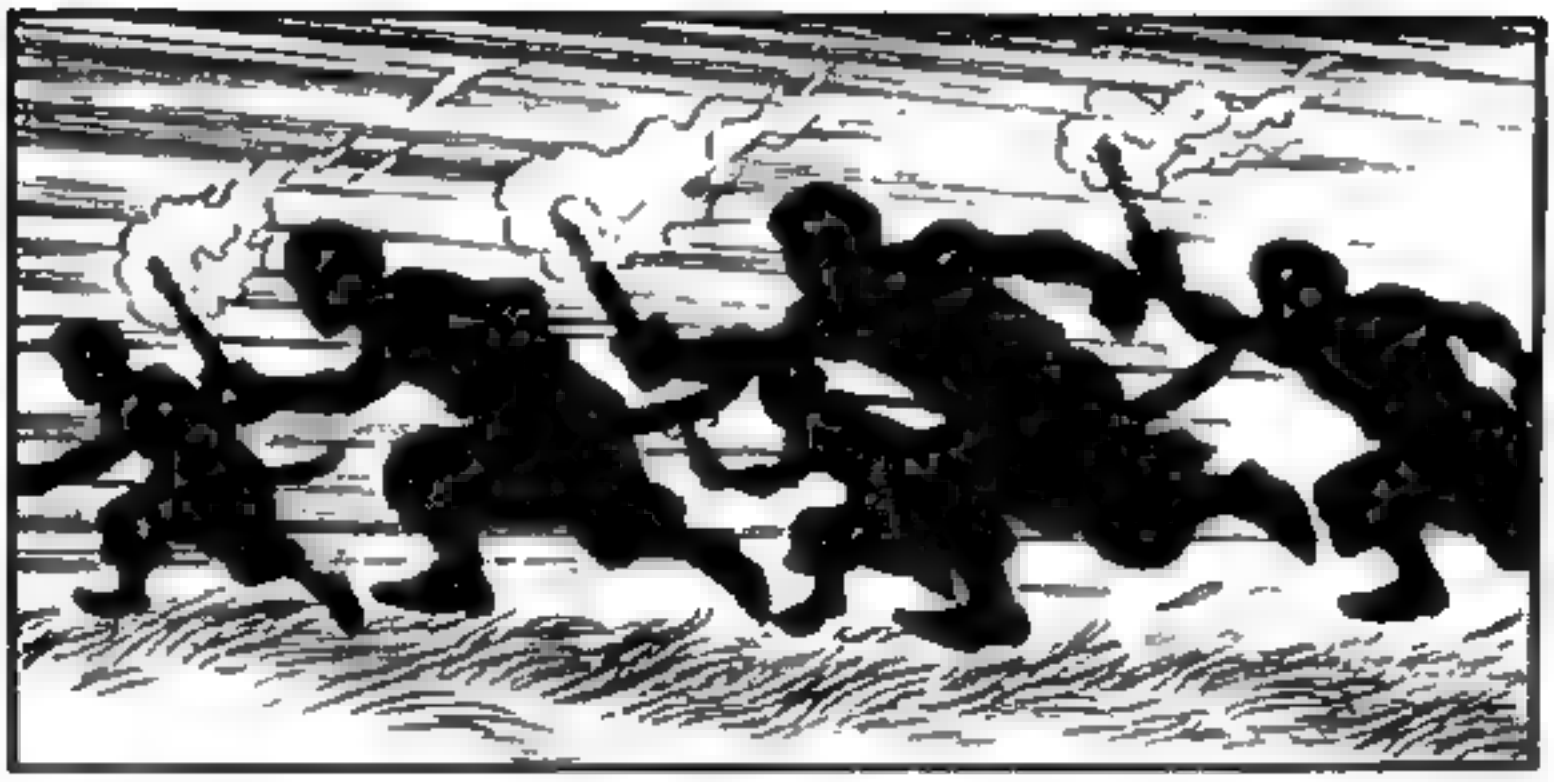
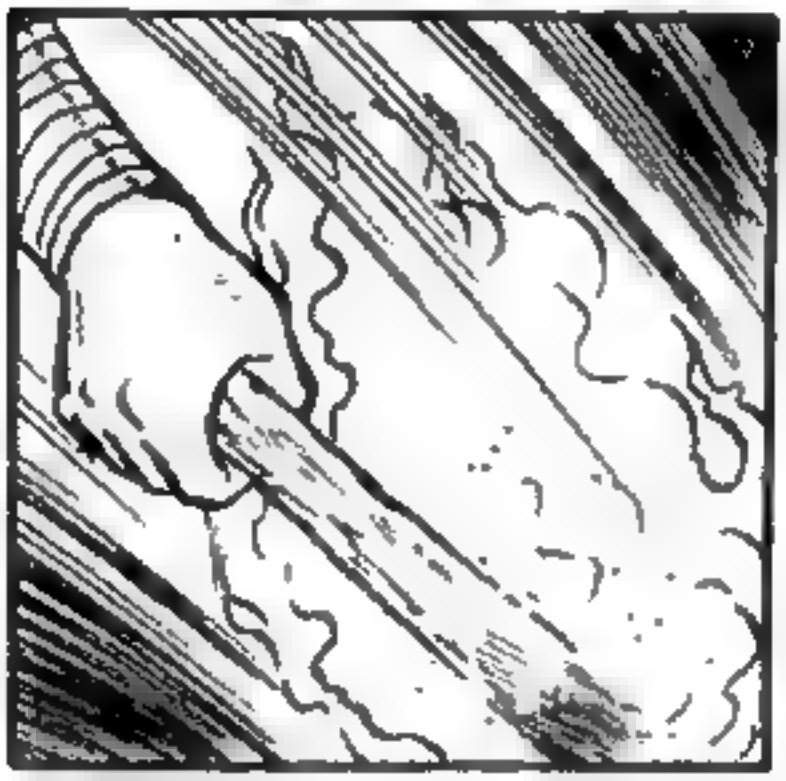
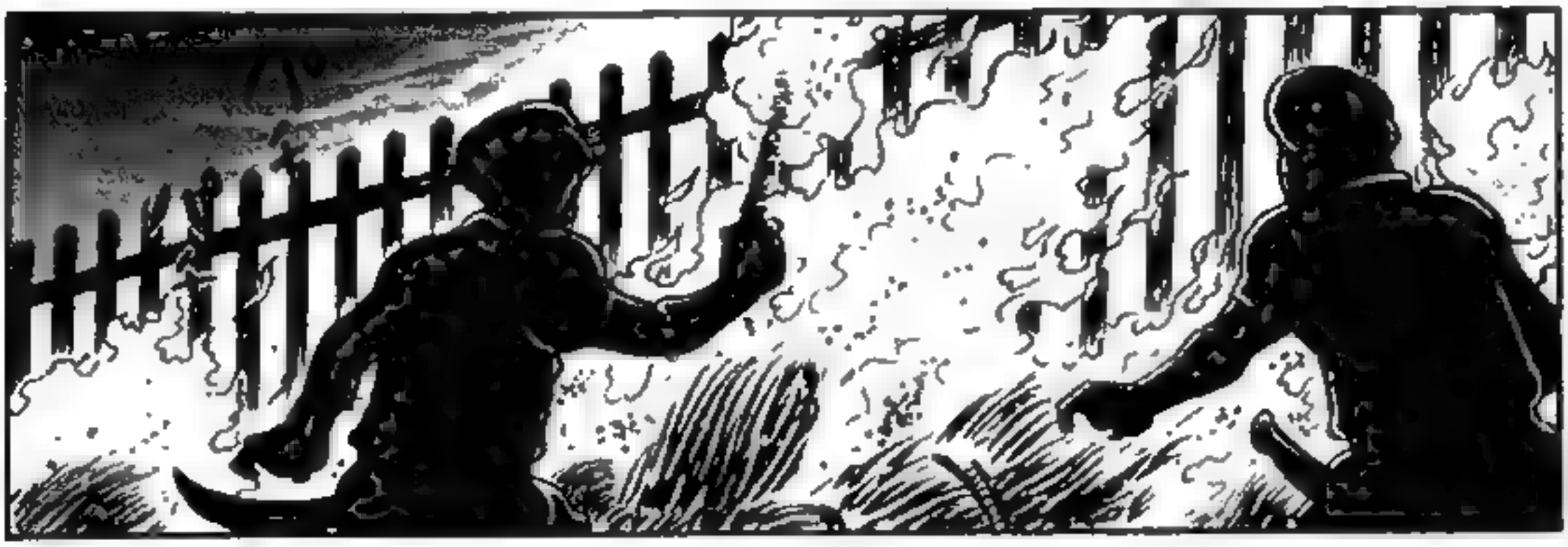


THE DRUMS ARE BEATING! NOW!





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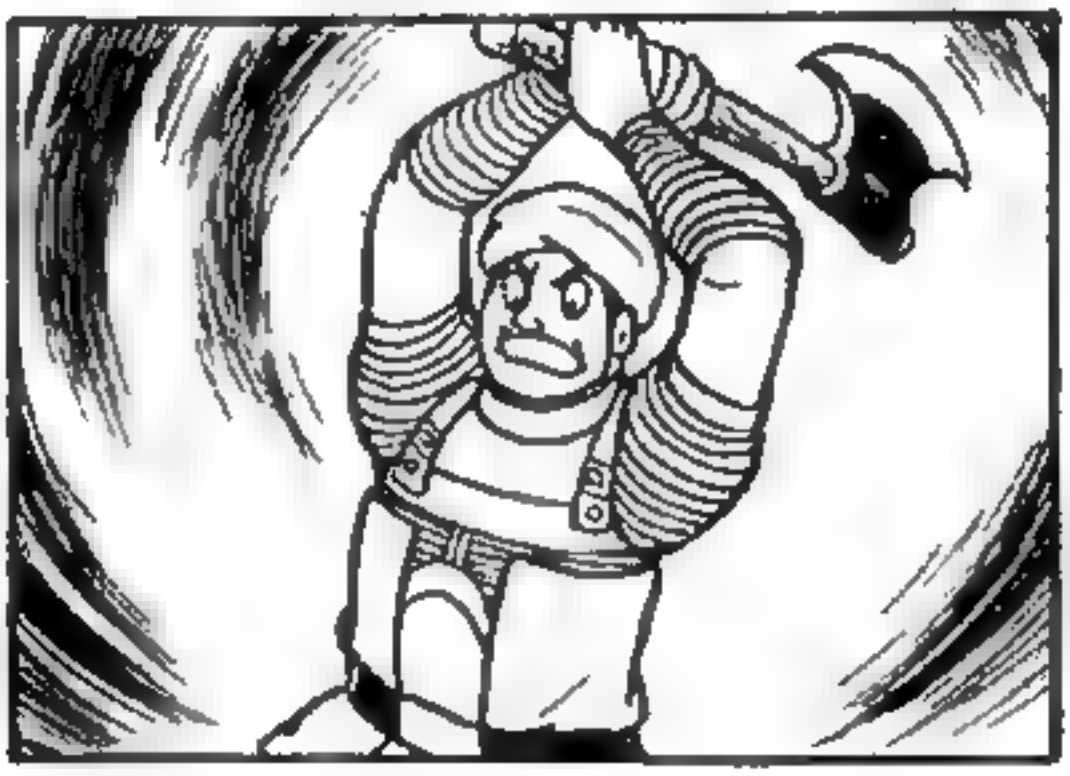
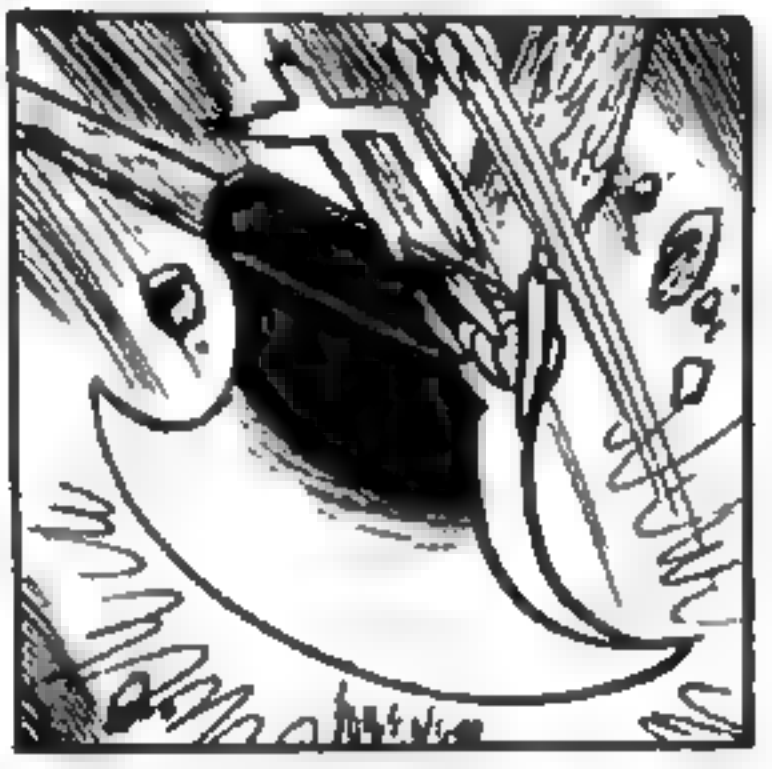
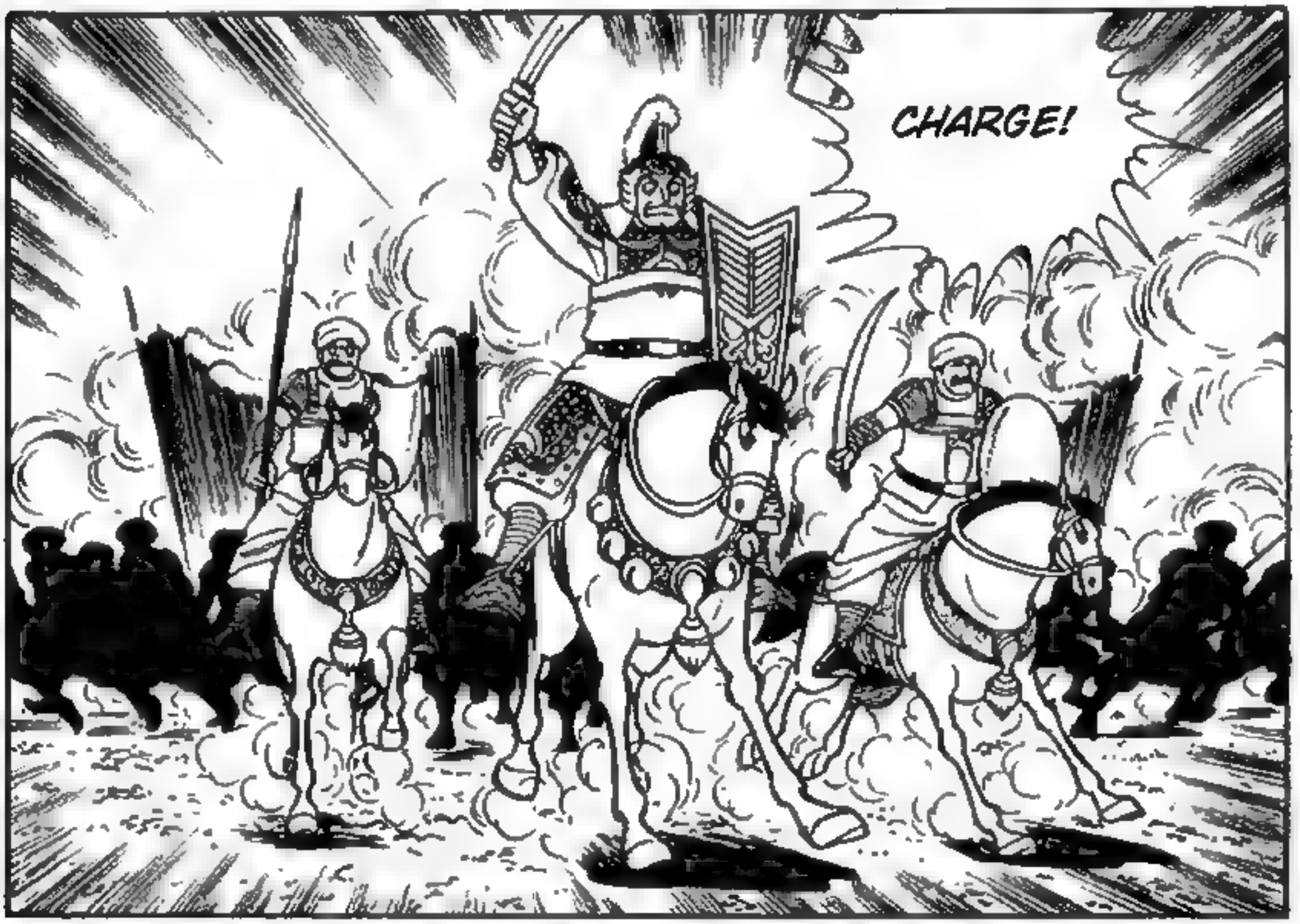
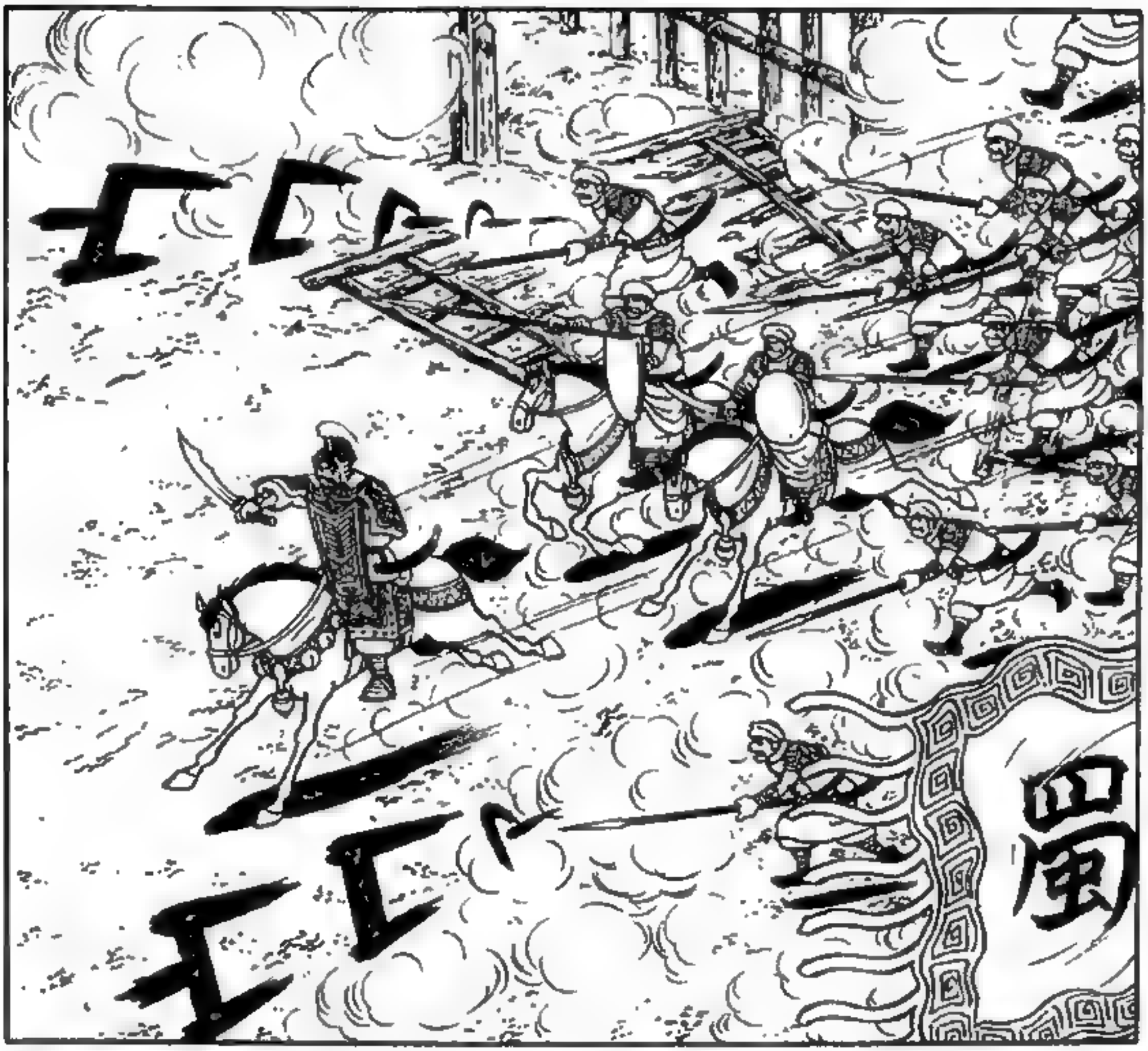





CHARGE!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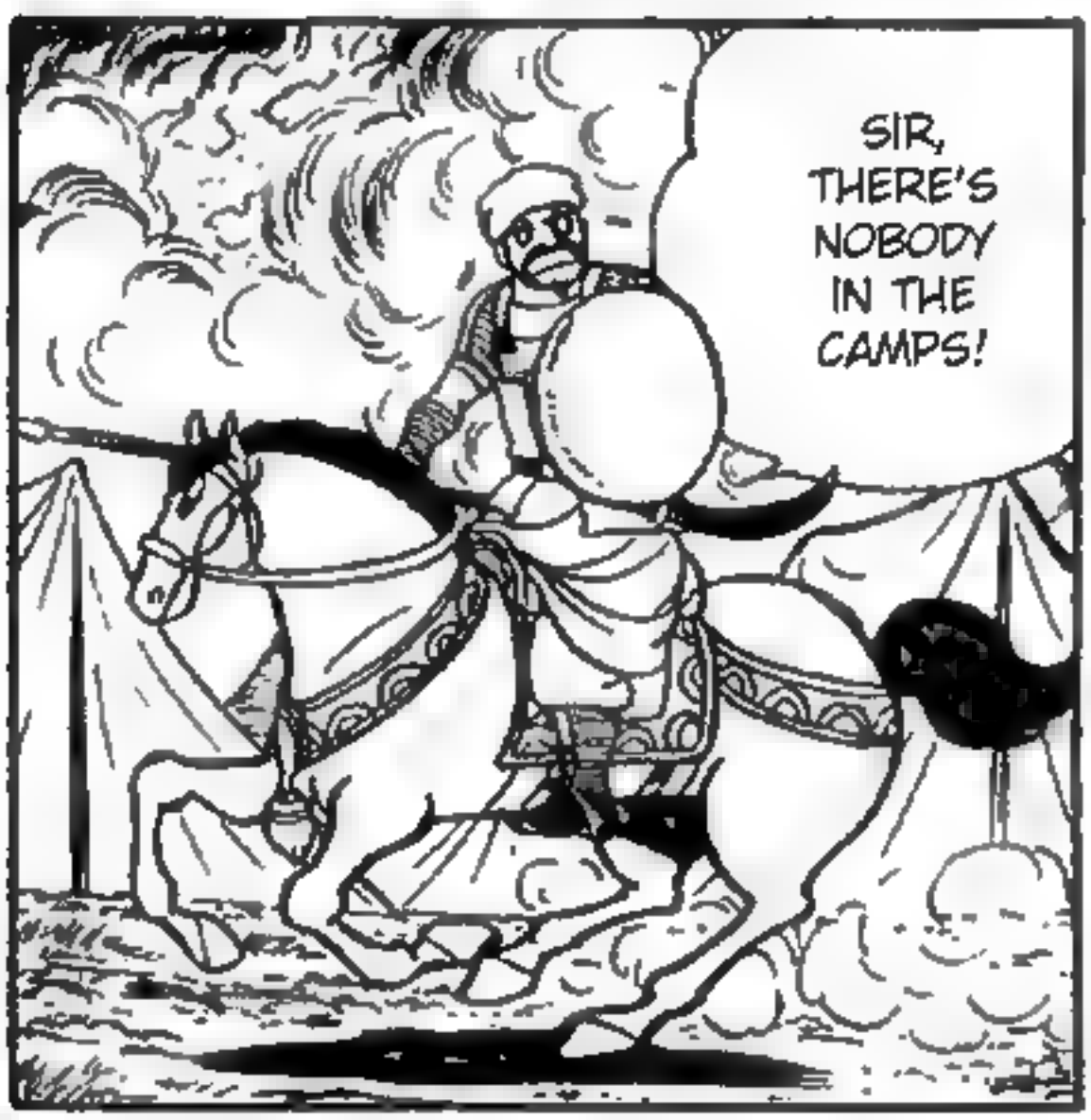
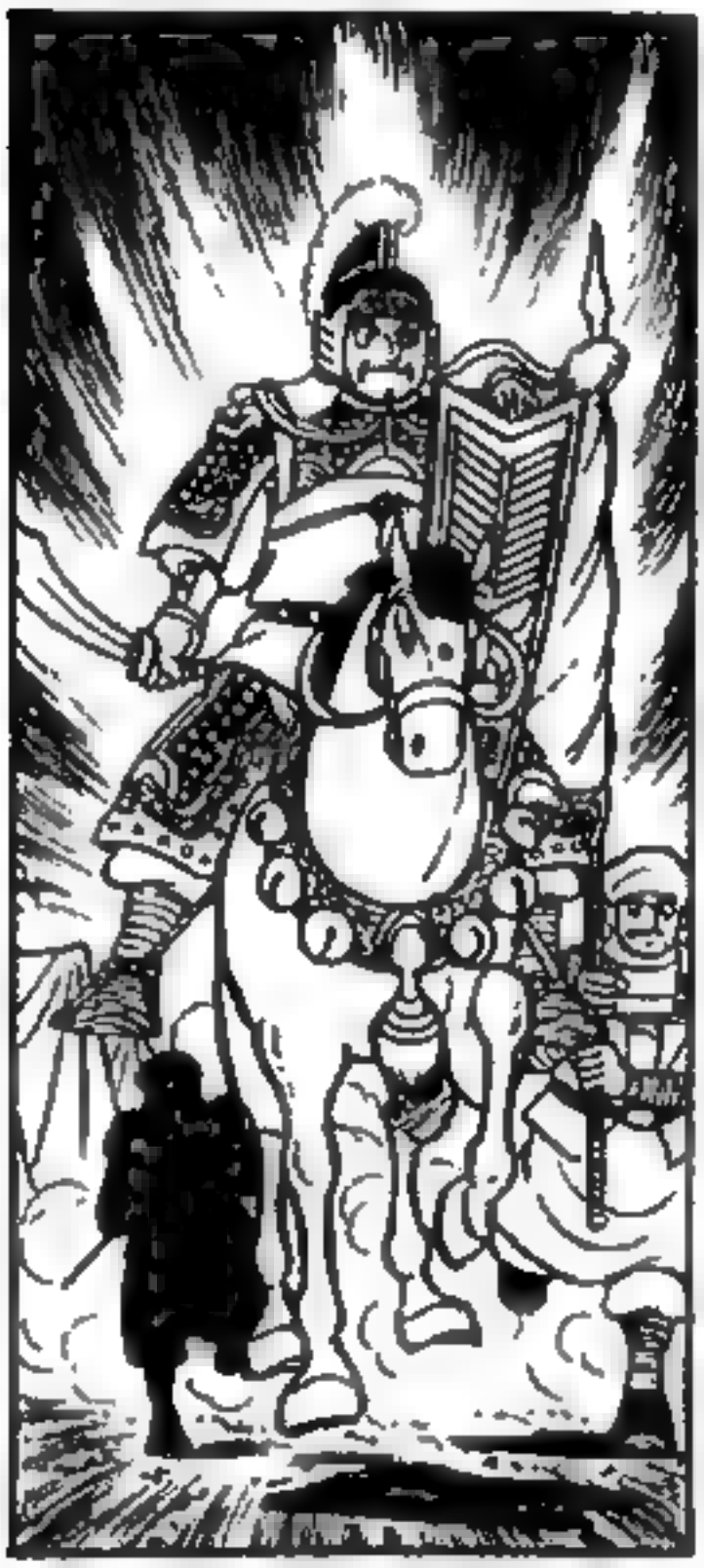

SIR, THERE'S NOBODY IN THE CAMPS!

HM?

HM?

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT...



AH!

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WHAT!

MN...

MENG YOU!

HAVE YOU BEEN DRUGGED?

DAMN IT.

UGHH...

WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON HERE!?

AHH!

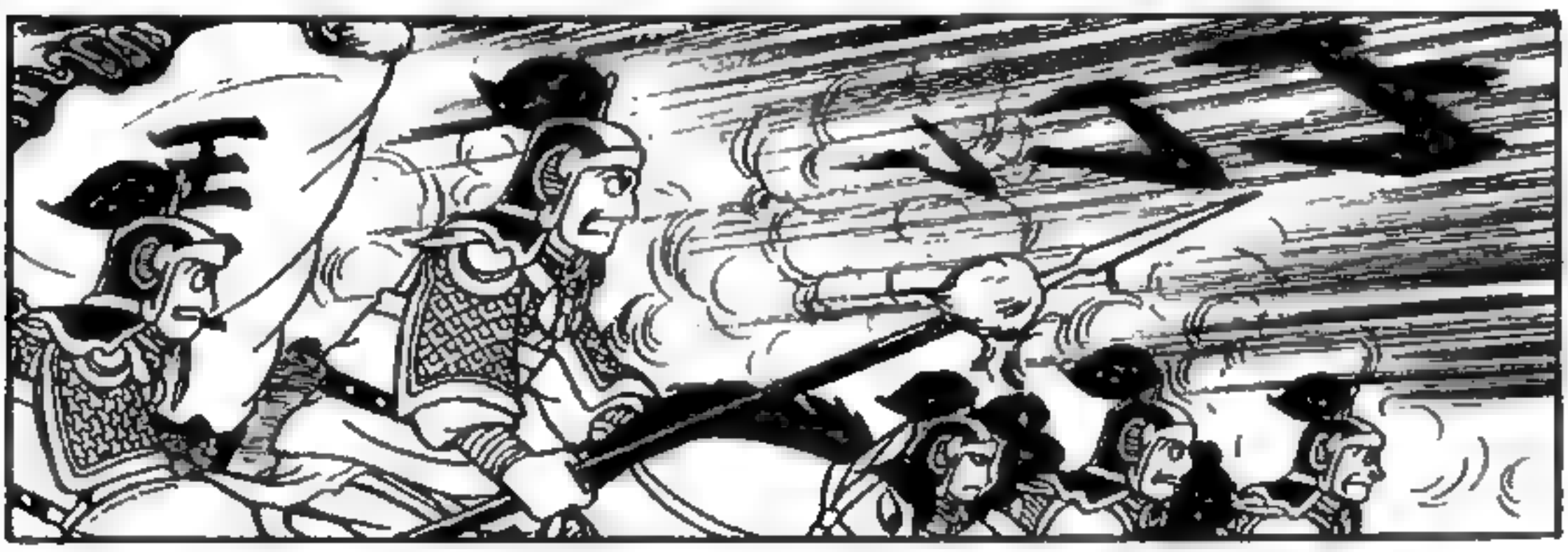
MENG HUO! THE CHANCELLOR SAW THROUGH YOUR PLAN FROM THE START!

COME ON, MEN! WE MUST FIGHT THEM OFF!

MNN...

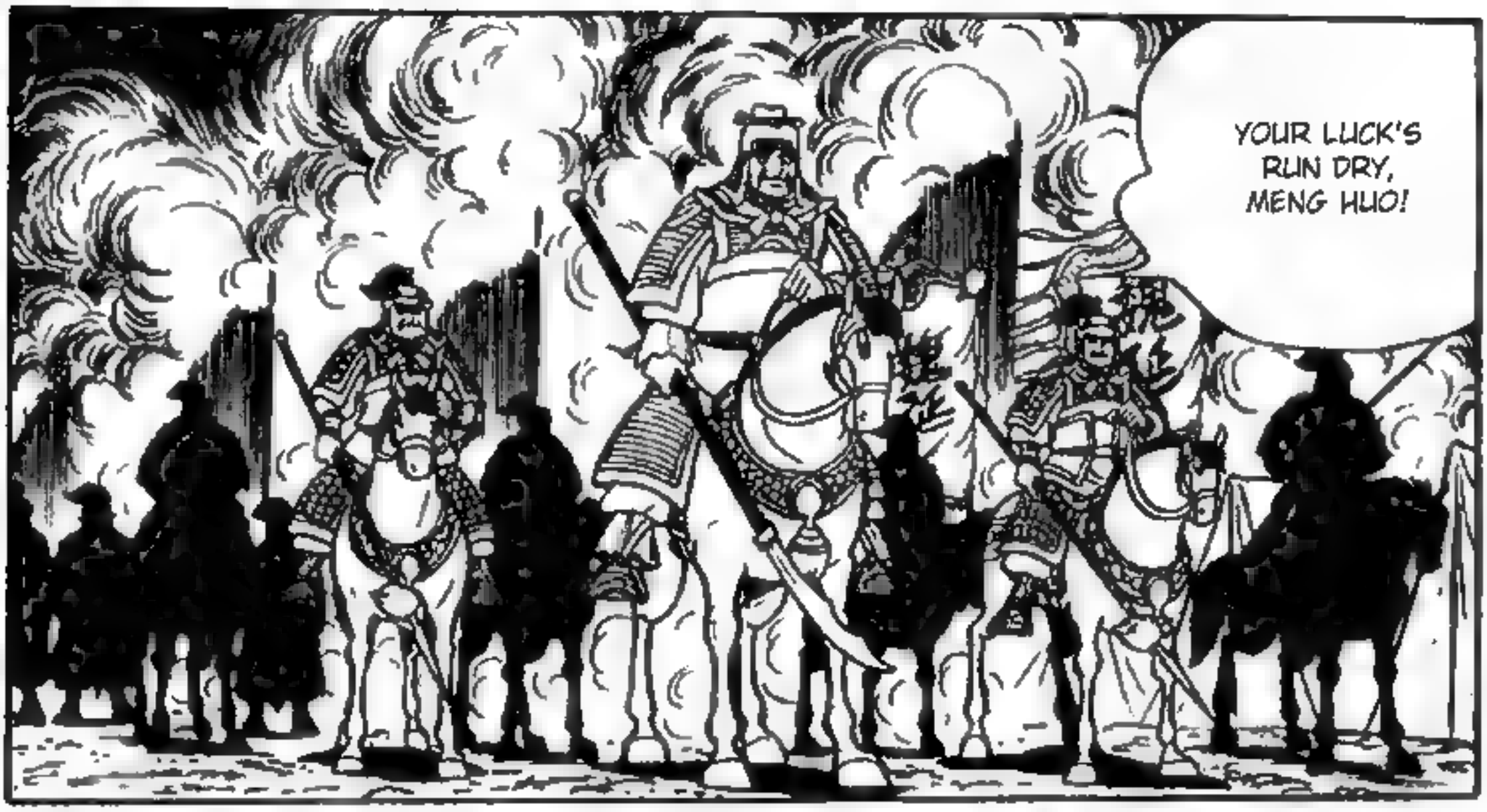
TAKE MENG HUO ALIVE!

YOU STILL WISH TO RESIST?

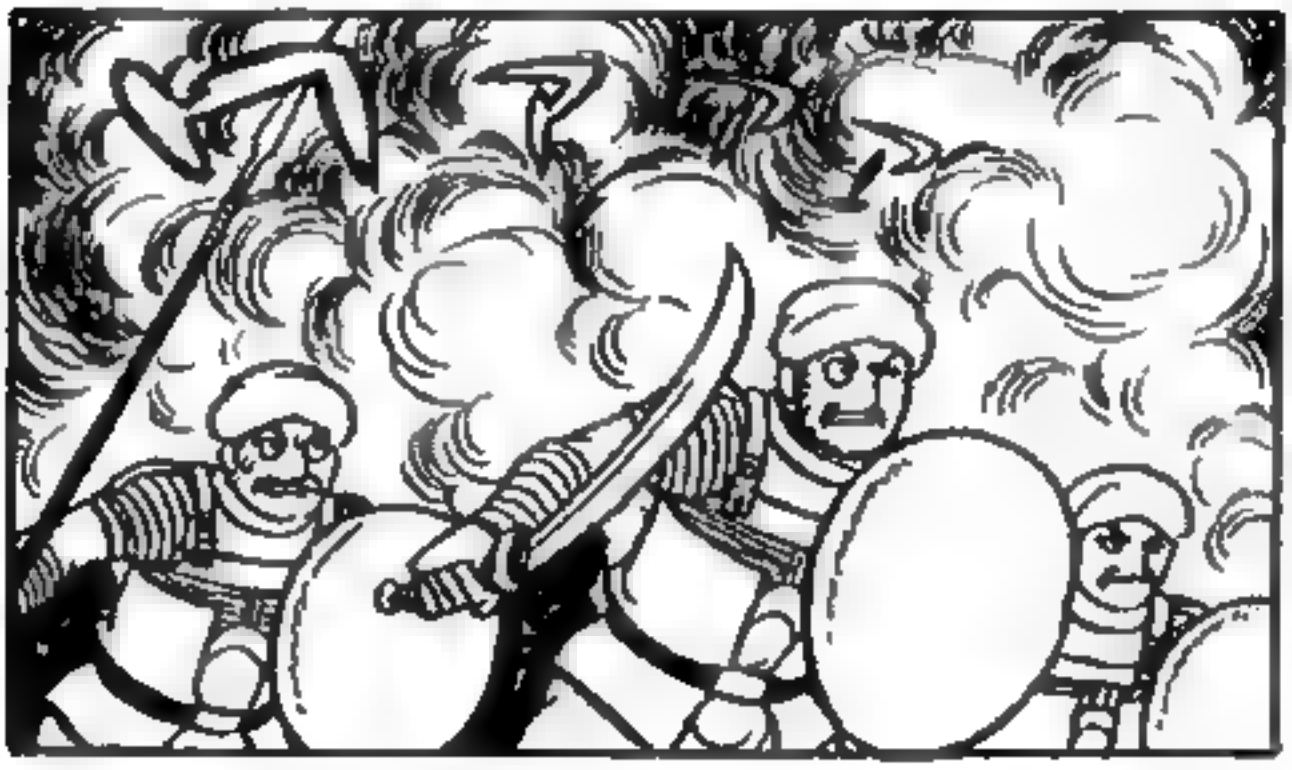


AH!

DAMN IT, I WON'T LET MYSELF BE CAPTURED HERE!


YOUR LUCK'S RUN DRY, MENG HUO!

CAPTURE HIM ALIVE!

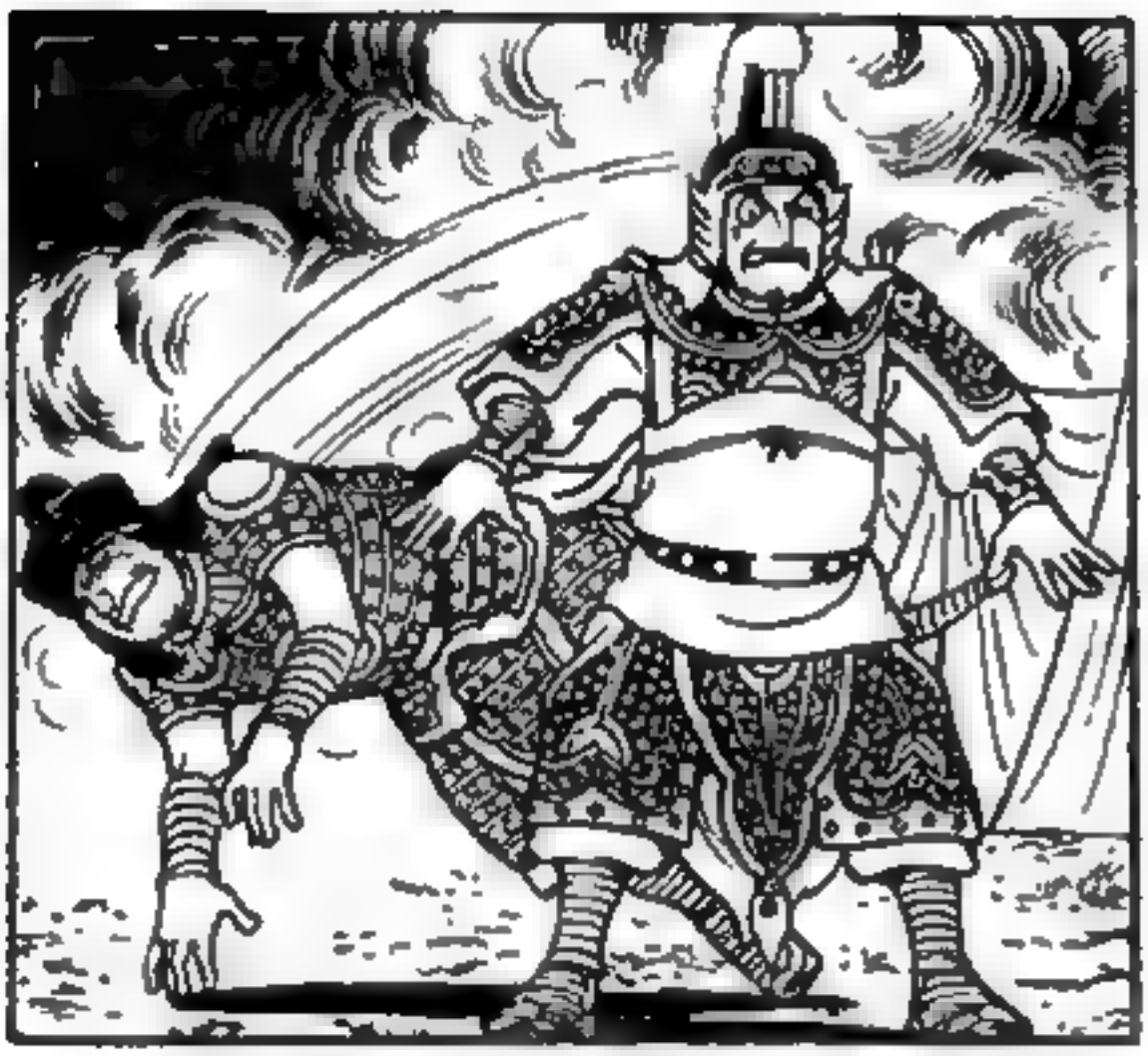


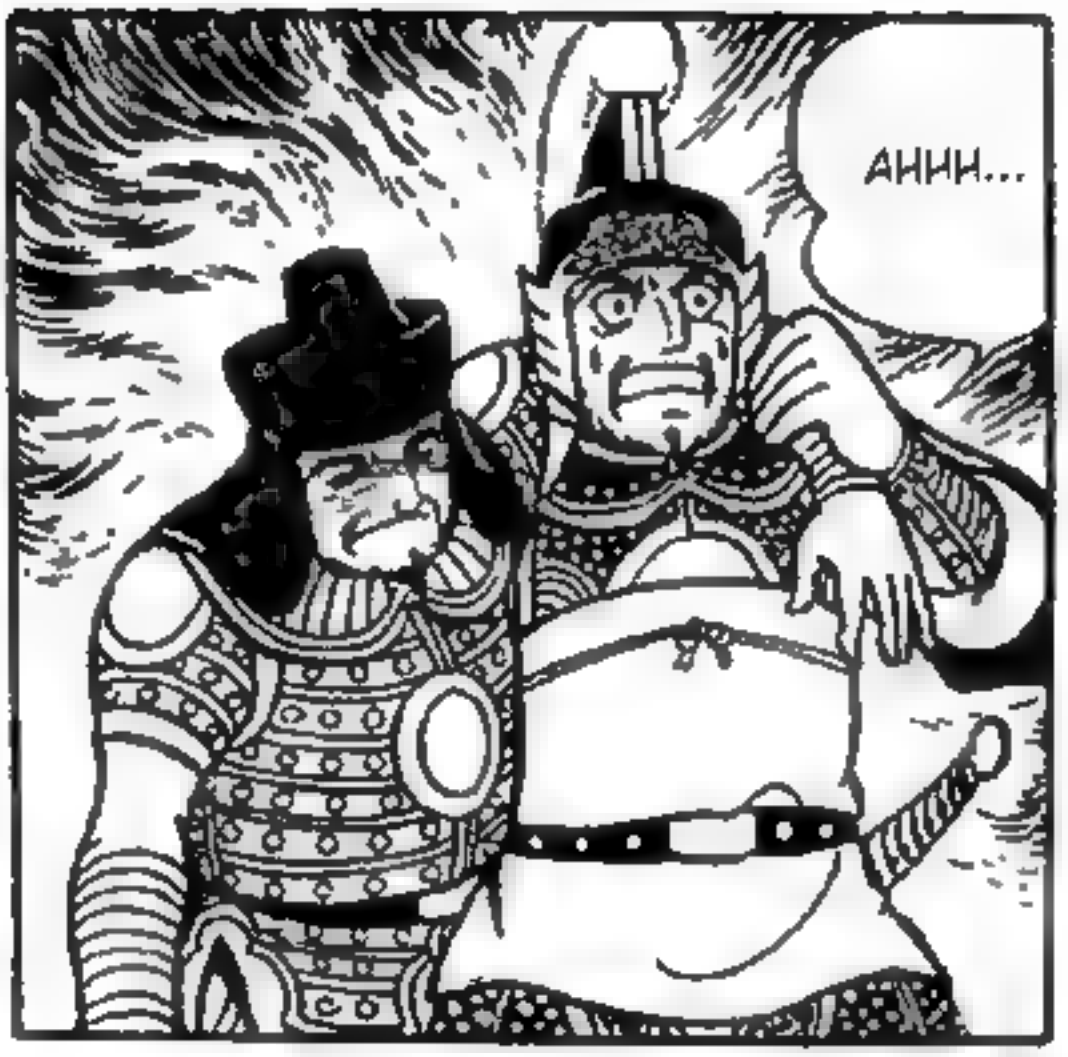
PROTECT OUR KING!

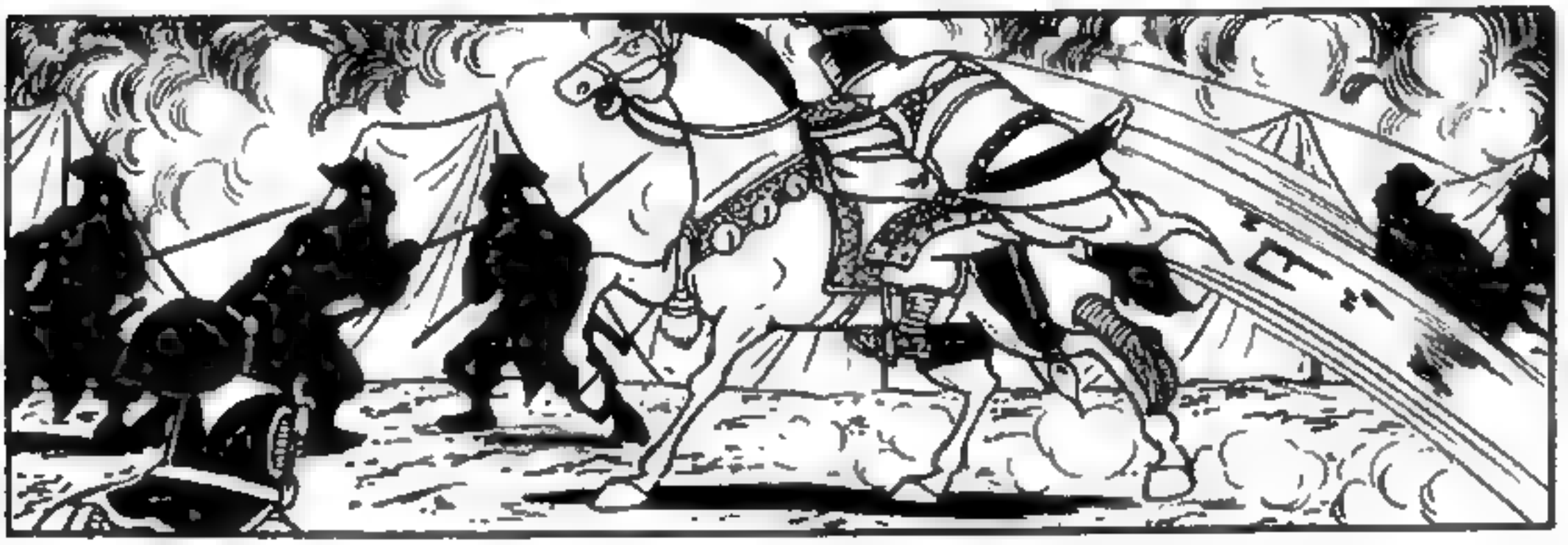
CURSES... WHAT A TURN OF EVENTS...

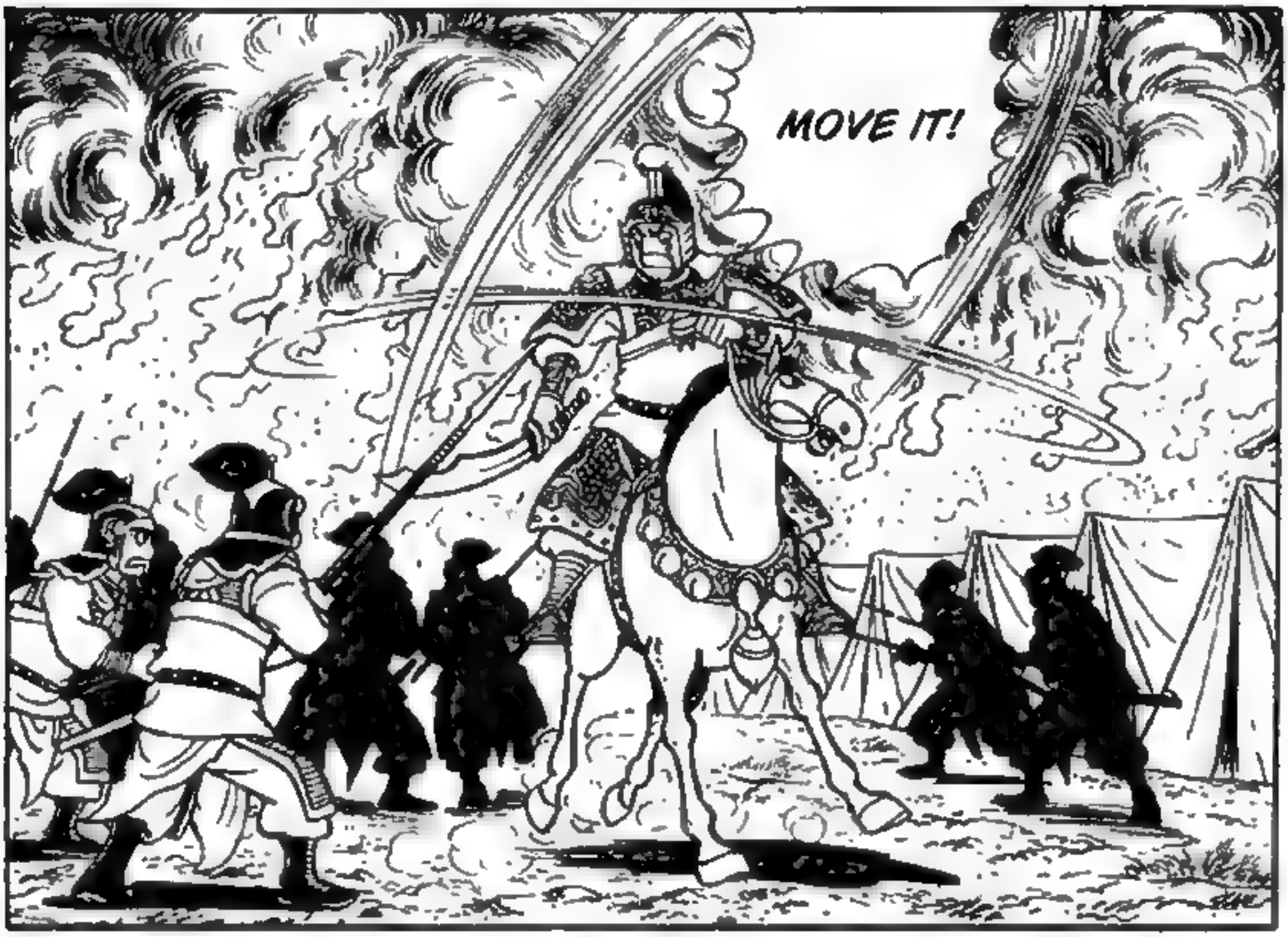
AGHH!

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP, DO YOU, MENG HUO? YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN SURROUNDED SO LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND SURRENDER.




AHHH...




MOVE IT!

HAHAHA! DON'T THINK YOU CAN CAPTURE ME THAT EASILY!

AH!

YOU THERE! I AM YOUR KING! LET ME ON!

YES, SIR!

GOOD, ROW ACROSS THE RIVER AT ONCE!

I SAID I AM YOUR KING! DID YOU NOT HEAR ME!?

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? I'M KING MENG HUO!

WHAT!

HAHA, DO WE LOOK LIKE NANMAN TROOPS TO YOU?

WHAT!?

WE'RE SHU TROOPS OF GENERAL MA DAI. WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO DISGUISE OURSELVES AND WAIT HERE IN CASE YOU WERE TO COME BY.

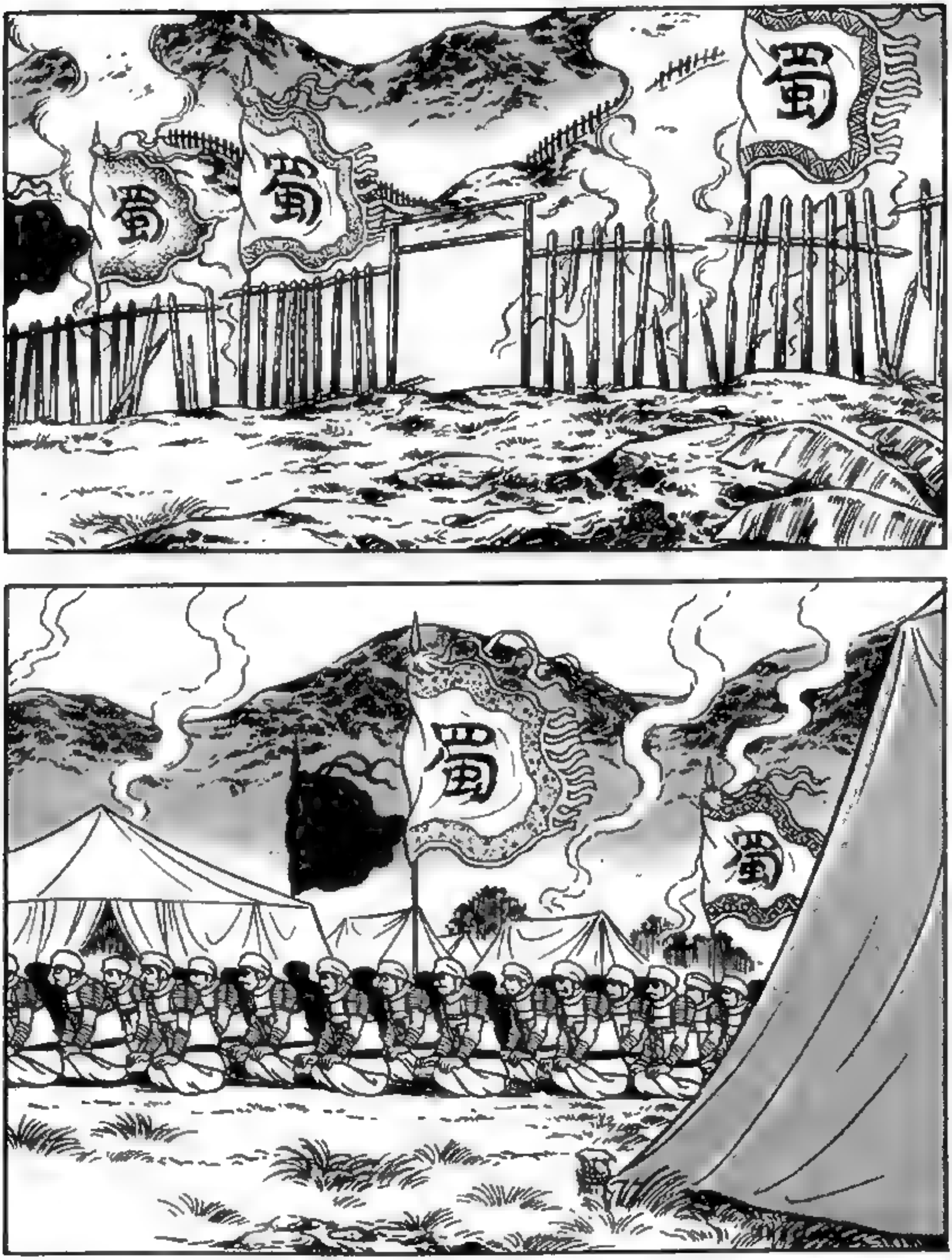
NGHHH!

NOW START WALKING!

EXCELLENT WORK.

GENERAL MA DAI! WE'VE CAUGHT KING MENG HUO!

THIRD RELEASE



YES, SIR.

ARE THESE ALL THE CAPTIVES?

YOUR LIVES ARE NOW IN MY HAND.

THINK OF THE GRIEF AND MISFORTUNE YOU CAUSE TO YOUR FAMILIES AND OTHERS WITH THIS CONSTANT WARRING. FROM NOW ON, I WANT YOU TO LIVE PEACEFULLY.

I HAVE COME TO TEACH YOU WHAT VIRTUOUS GOVERNMENT IS LIKE SO AS TO CORRECT THIS MISCONCEPTION OF YOURS.

HOWEVER, I DID NOT COME ALL THE WAY HERE TO KILL YOU NOR MASSACRE YOUR PEOPLE. IT SEEMS YOU THINK OF RAIDING AND PLUNDERING AS NATURAL ASPECTS OF LIFE, BUT IT NEED NOT BE.

YOU MAY NOW LEAVE HERE AND RETURN TO YOUR FAMILIES.

YES, I AM.

Y-YOU'RE WILLING TO SPARE US ALL?

YES, SIR. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

HOWEVER, I WARN YOU ALL THAT IF YOU TURN YOUR BLADES ON ME AGAIN, I WILL NOT SHOW MERCY NEXT TIME.

WHAT A HUMANE LEADER HE WAS.

I THOUGHT WE'D ALL LOSE OUR HEADS FOR SURE...

YES, SIR.

NOW BRING MENG HUO BEFORE ME.

WE MEET AGAIN, MENG HUO.

HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPLAIN YOUR CAPTURE ON THE BOAT?

HAHA, IN BRAWNS, YOU MAY HAVE HELD YOUR OWN, BUT IN BRAINS, YOU WERE ONCE AGAIN OUT-MATCHED.

I DID NOT LOSE IN WAR THIS TIME EITHER! MY DEFEAT THIS TIME WAS ALL BECAUSE OF MY FOOLISH BROTHER WHO LET HIMSELF GET DRUGGED AND RUIN MY PLANS!

IS THAT RIGHT?

T-THAT WAS A SIMPLE MISTAKE ANYBODY COULD MAKE!

NEVERTHELESS, THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I HAVE CAPTURED YOU. AS YOU PROMISED, YOU SHOULD HAVE NO MORE REGRETS IF I TAKE YOUR HEAD.

AS GENEROUS AS I AM, EVEN MY PATIENCE HAS A LIMIT, MENG HUO.

N-NO, WAIT! LET ME GO JUST ONE MORE TIME!

HAHAHA! YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT 3 TIMES AND YOU STILL CAN'T ADMIT YOU WERE BEATEN EVEN ONCE?

JUST ONE MORE TIME! PLEASE! ALL I WANT IS A FAIR FIGHT! I STILL REFUSE TO ADMIT YOU'VE BEATEN ME FAIR AND SQUARE!

VERY WELL, I SHALL LET YOU GO ONE MORE TIME. BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT WAR IS NOT SIMPLY A FIGHT WITH BLOOD AND IRON. STUDY AND REVIEW THE ARTS OF WAR AND COME AT ME ONCE MORE SO AS TO LEAVE NO REGRETS IN OUR NEXT BATTLE.

I WILL HAVE NO REGRETS EVEN IF YOU BEHEAD ME.

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF I CAPTURE YOU AGAIN?

HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF THE KING OF NANMAN TRIBES WHEN YOU CANNOT EVEN LOOK AFTER YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER?

BY THE WAY, I DOUBT YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR BROTHER IS RIGHT NOW, AM I CORRECT?

BRING HIM OUT.

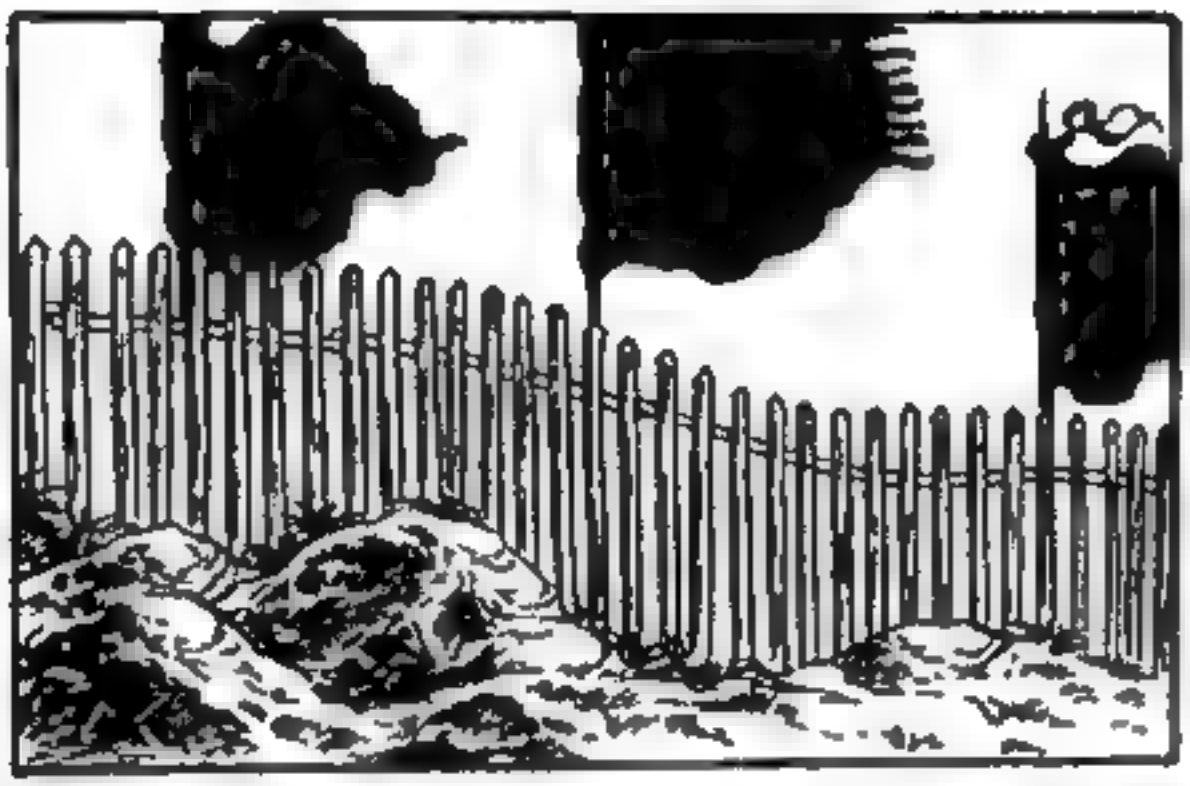
W-WE WERE SEPARATED IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE. THERE WAS LITTLE I COULD DO...

BROTHER!

I HAVE NO EXCUSES, BROTHER...
YOU FOOL! HOW COULD YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AND BE DRUGGED AFTER ALL MY WARNINGS! YOU HAVE YOUR INCOMPETENCE TO BLAME FOR OUR CURRENT CAPTIVITY!

蜀
NOW, NOW. FEUDING HERE WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. MAKE UP WITH EACH OTHER AND COOPERATE AS BEST AS YOU CAN FOR YOUR NEXT BATTLE.
I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME! I'LL SHOW YOU A TRULY FEARSOME BATTLE NEXT TIME!
COME, MENG YOU!

THE BULK OF OUR FORCES SHOULD STILL BE SAFE INSIDE OUR FORTS. IT'S TIME TO USE THEM FOR A DECISIVE BATTLE.



HM?

馬岱

MENG HUO!
MENG YOU!
YOU WILL HAVE
NO MERCY
NEXT TIME!

AHH!

IT'S
MA DAI'S
BANNER!

QUICKLY! WE MUST HURRY TO OUR MAIN BASE!

CURSES!
IT SEEMS THE ENEMIES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN OVER OUR BASE HERE.

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趙

AHH!

E-EVEN OUR MAIN BASE...!?

MENG HOU! DO NOT ASSUME THE CHANCEL-LOR WILL BE FOREVER MERCIFUL!

RIGHT...

THIS WAY, MENG YOU!

AHH!

HUFF HUFF

ARE YOU STILL LURKING HERE, MENG HUO!? I WON'T HESITATE TO CUT YOU DOWN MYSELF THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE CAUGHT!

BROTHER, LOOK!

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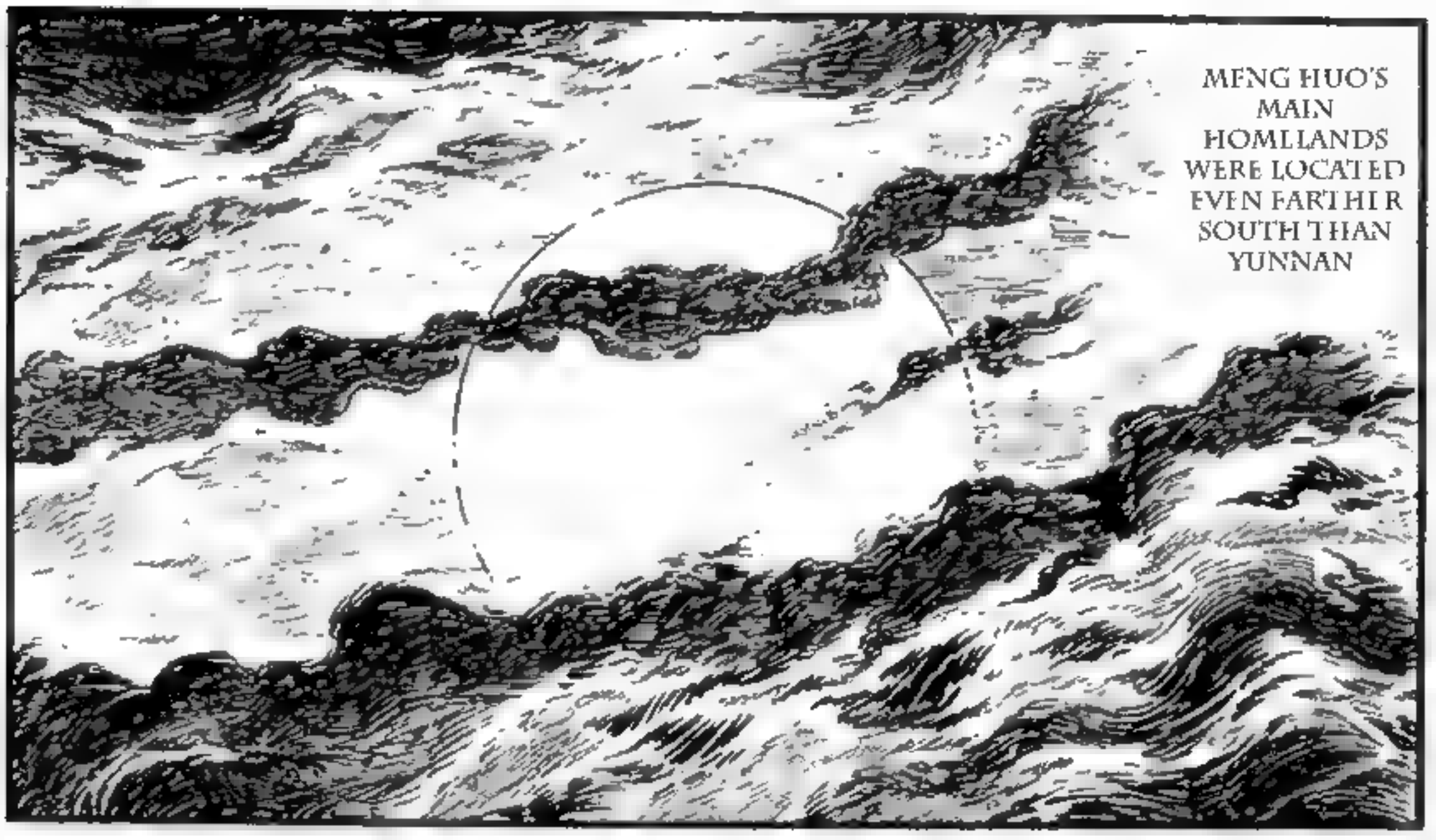
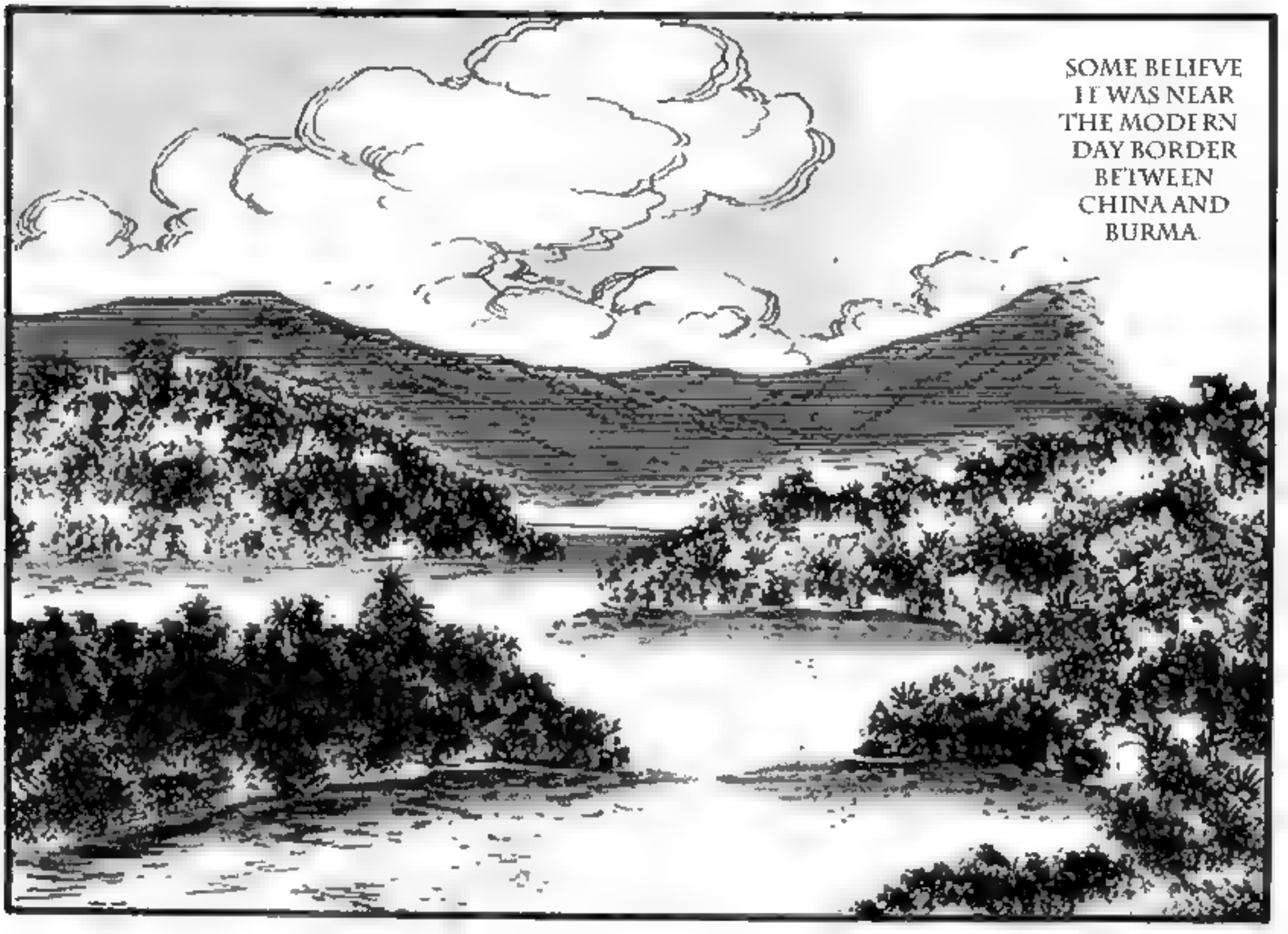
OUR FORTIFIED CAMPS HERE ALONG THIS ENTIRE CLIFF MUST HAVE FALLEN TO ENEMY HANDS...

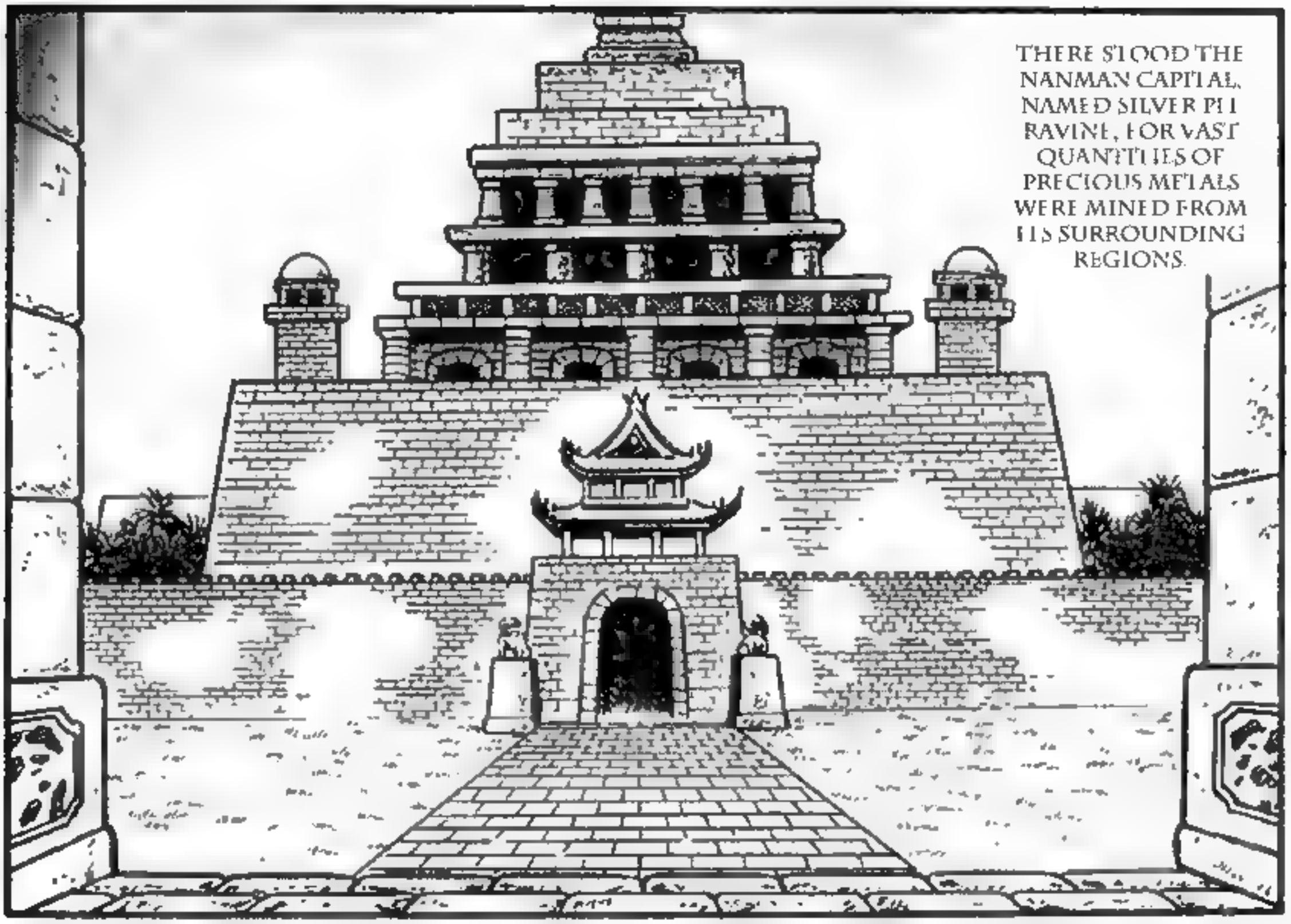
THERE ARE SHU FLAGS ALL OVER HERE...!

WE CANNOT HOPE TO RESIST THEM HERE ANYMORE. WE MUST WITHDRAW TO SILVER PIT RAVINE AND REORGANIZE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WERE ALL CAPTURED SO EASILY...
MENG HUO HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SWALLOW HIS PRIDE AND WITHDRAW DEEPER INTO HIS HOMELANDS

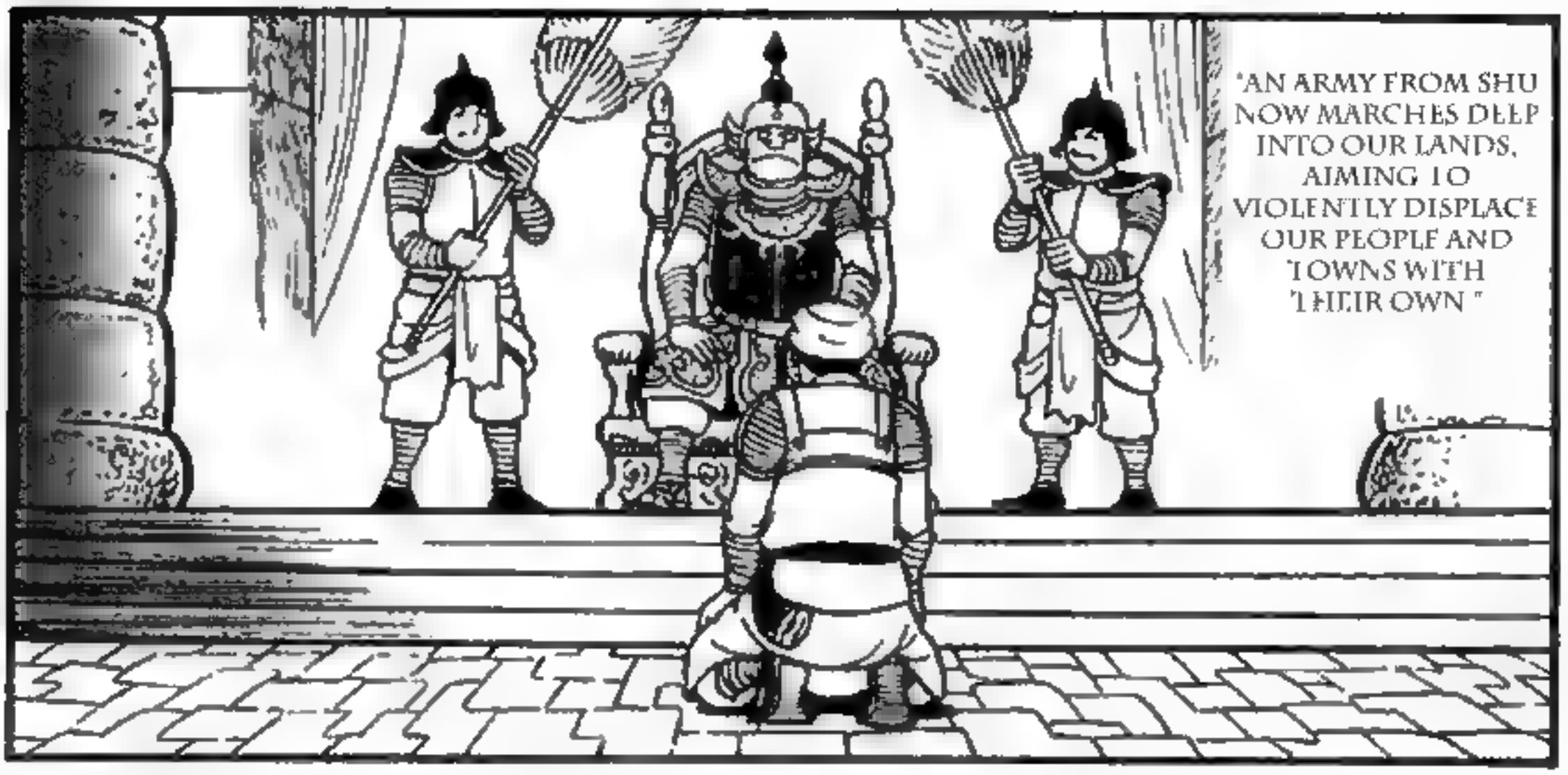
QUIET STANCE



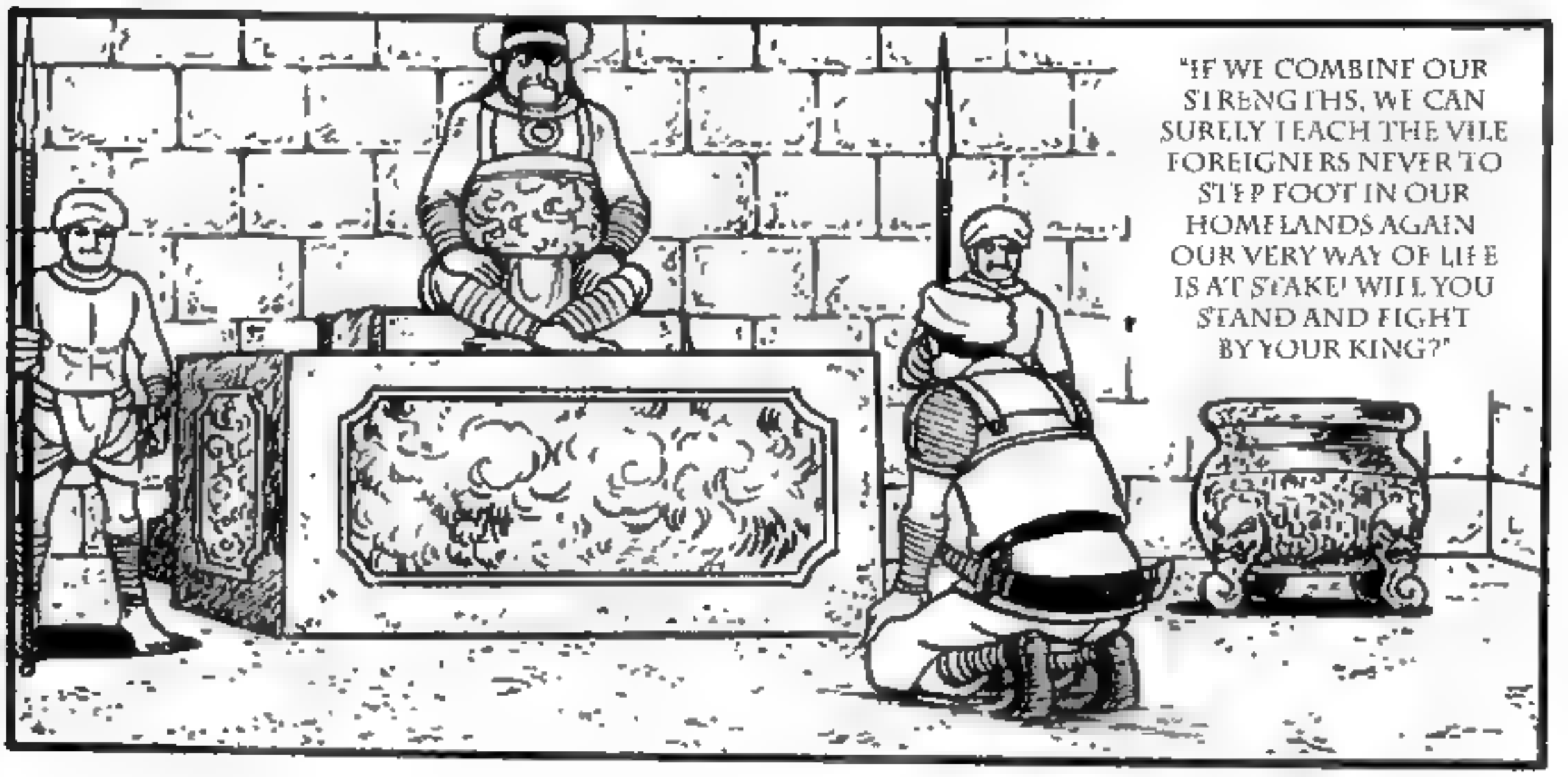



THERE STOOD THE NANMAN CAPITAL, NAMED SILVER PIT RAVINE, FOR VAST QUANTITIES OF PRECIOUS METALS WERE MINED FROM ITS SURROUNDING REGIONS.

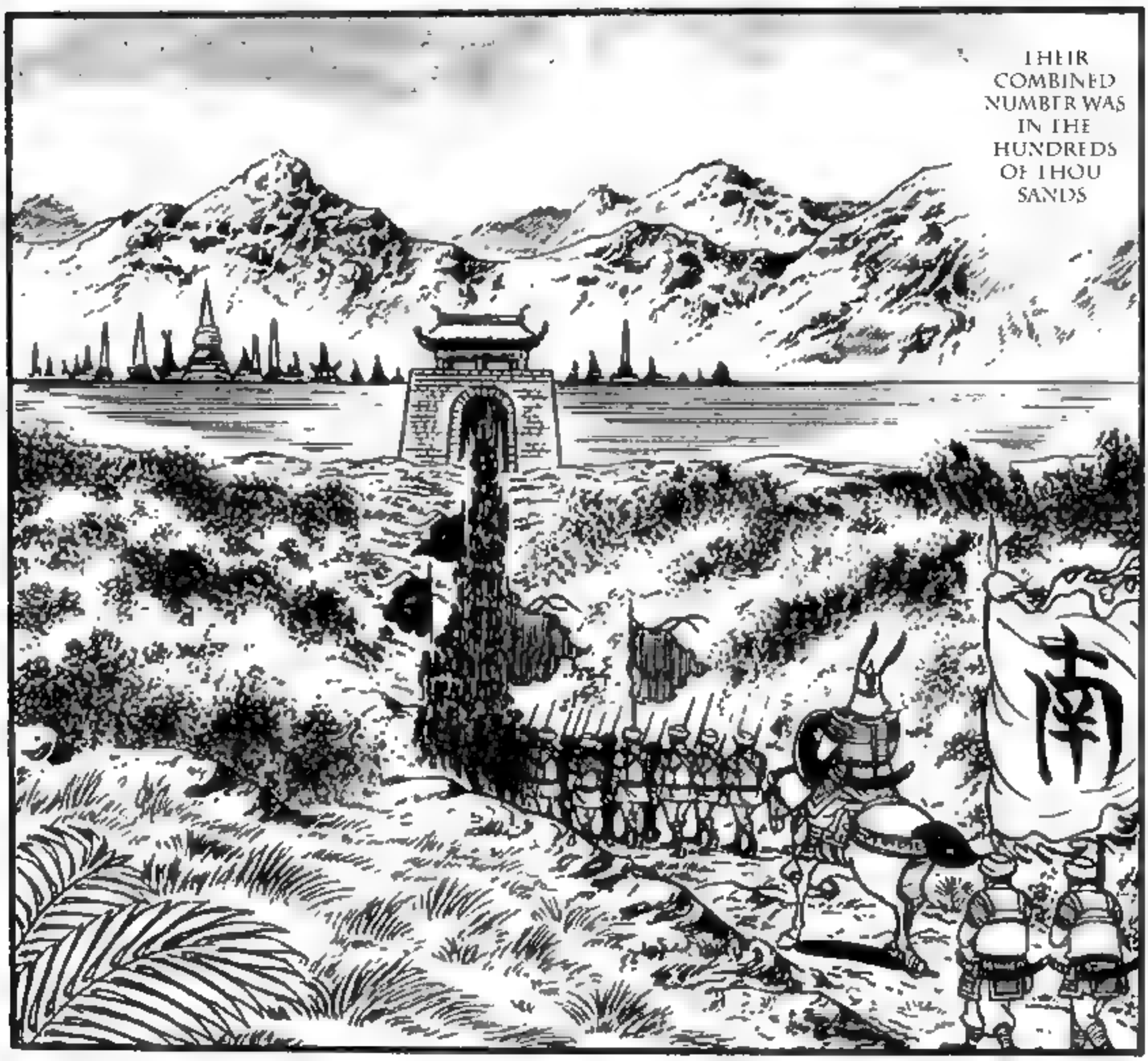
FROM THIS CAPITAL, MENG HUO SENT OUT MESSENGERS TO ALL 8 TRIBES AND 93 DISTRICTS OF THE NANMAN PEOPLE


"AN ARMY FROM SHU NOW MARCHES DEEP INTO OUR LANDS, AIMING TO VIOLENTLY DISPLACE OUR PEOPLE AND TOWNS WITH THEIR OWN."

"THEY ARE A FEARSOME FORCE, BUT THE FOREIGNERS ARE ILL SUITED TO THE TROPICAL CLIMATE, AND THEY HAVE MARCHED AND MARCHED TO THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION JUST TO REACH HERE."


"IF WE COMBINE OUR STRENGTHS, WE CAN SURELY TEACH THE VILE FOREIGNERS NEVER TO STEP FOOT IN OUR HOMELANDS AGAIN. OUR VERY WAY OF LIFE IS AT STAKE! WILL YOU STAND AND FIGHT BY YOUR KING?"

MENG HUO'S PLEAS WERE A HUGE SUCCESS, AND THE TRIBES BEGAN TO GATHER UNDER HIS BANNER


THEIR COMBINED NUMBER WAS IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOU SANDS
南

THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO MY CALL IN THIS TIME OF NEED. UNITED, WE CAN DEFEAT ANY FOE!

HAN ARMS AND ARMOUR ARE QUITE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, BUT FATIGUE AND MORALE ARE WHAT DETERMINES WAR.

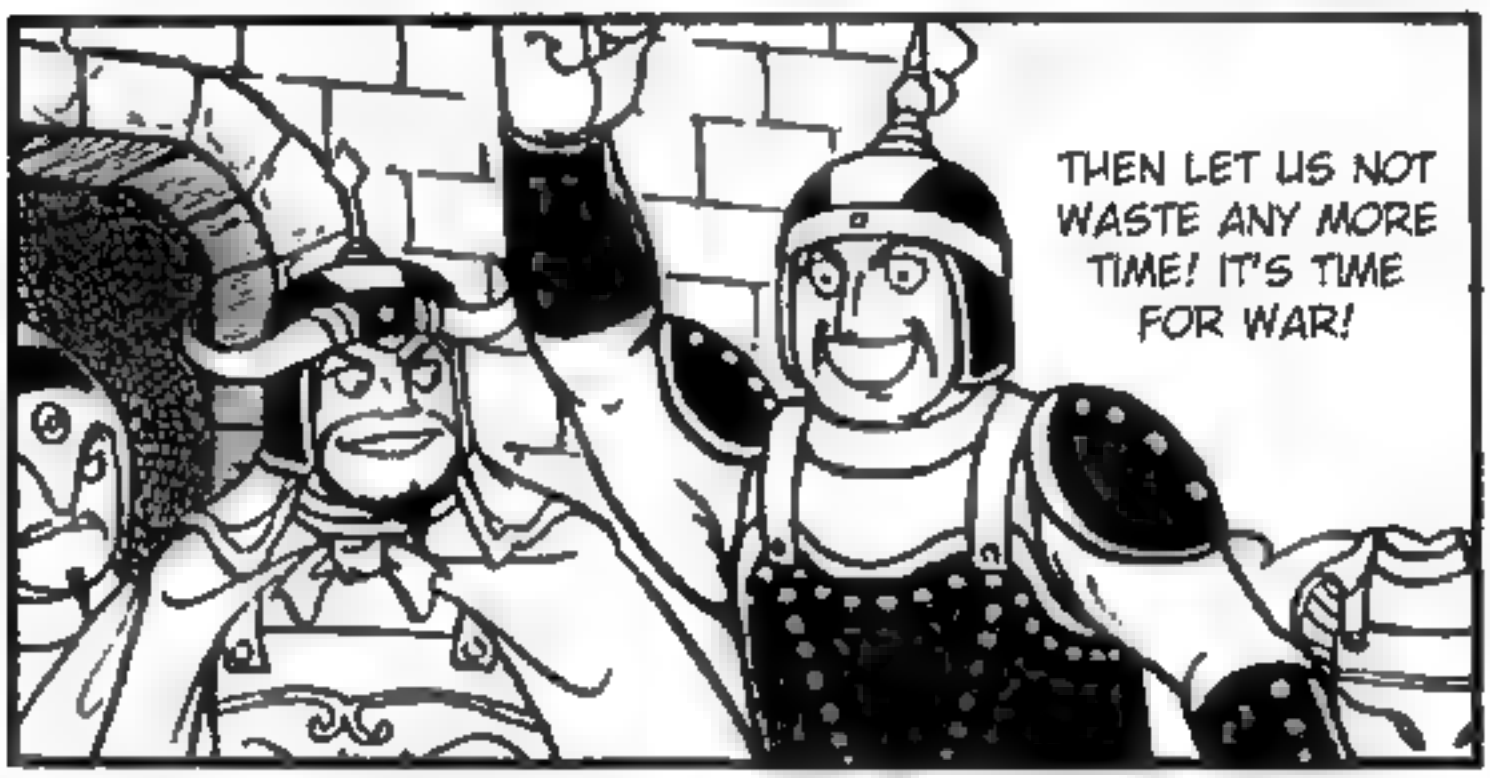
CAN I TAKE THAT TO MEAN WE CAN TAKE ANY CAPTURED BOOTY FOR OURSELVES?

OH?

I SAY WE TAKE THE FANCY SWORDS AND ARMOUR FROM THEIR TIRED, DISPIRITED HANDS!

WHERE ARE THE ENEMIES?
NOW THAT LIGHTS MY FIRE!

OF COURSE! I DO NOT LET A GOOD DEED GO UNREWARDED. EVERY MAN IS FREE TO KEEP WHAT HE CAPTURES.

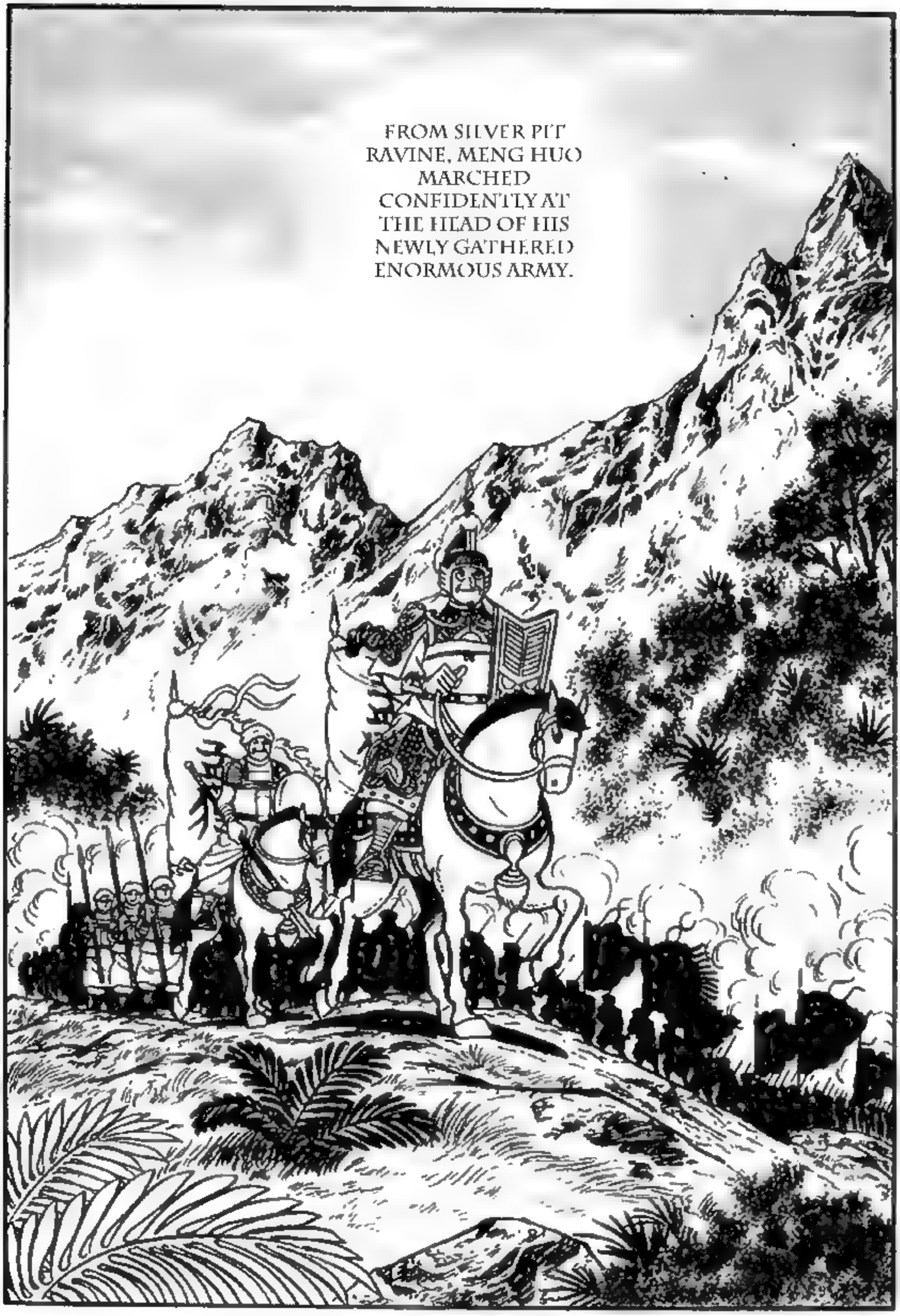

THEN LET US NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME! IT'S TIME FOR WAR!

THE ENEMIES ARE CURRENTLY CAMPED ALONG THE WEST ER RIVER. THEY ARE BUSY BUILDING BRIDGES TO CROSS THEIR TROOPS.

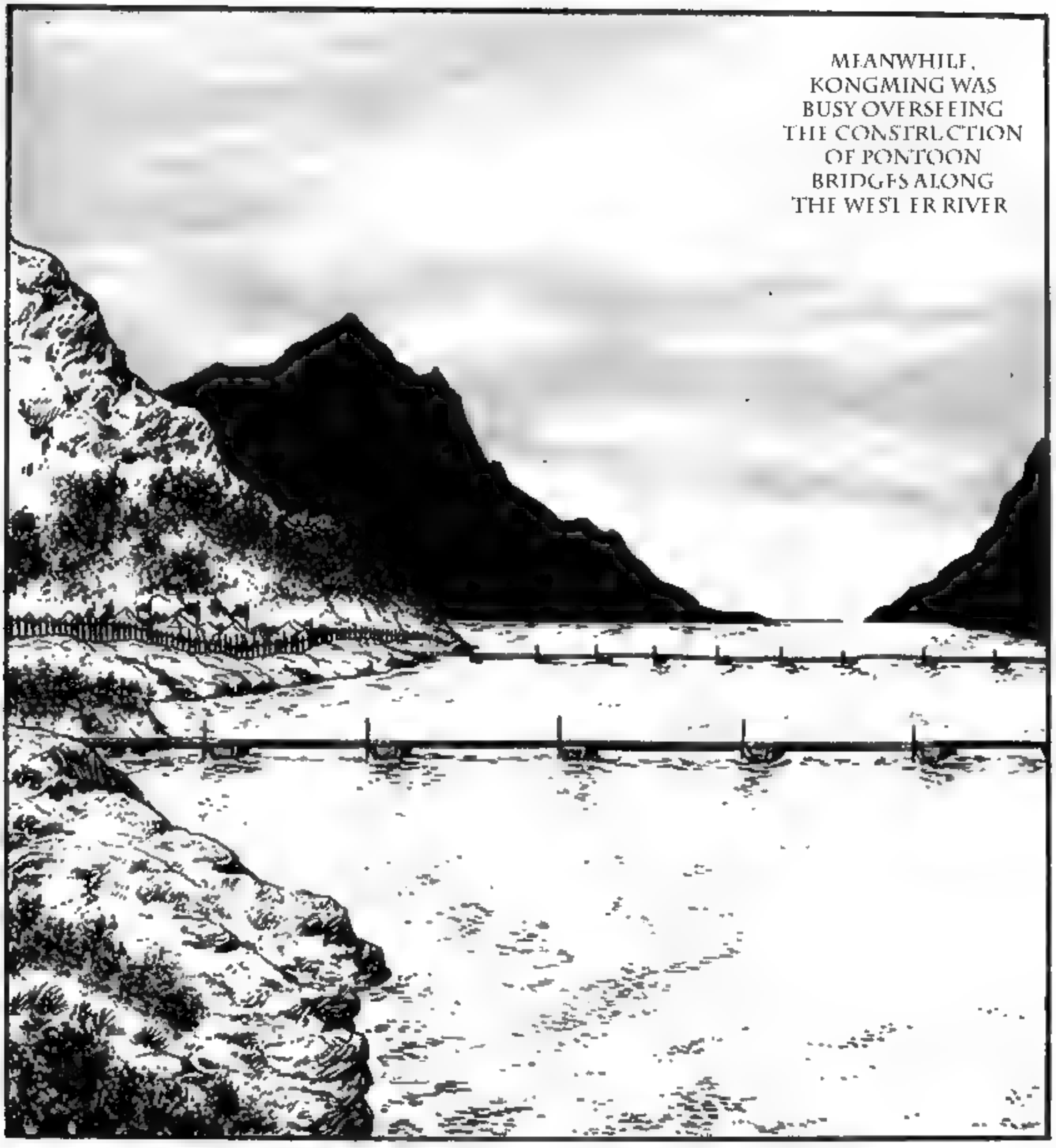
YES, OFF TO BATTLE WE GO!

HAHAHA! GOOD, WITH OUR HIGH MORALE, WE WILL SURELY PREVAIL!

FROM SILVER PIT RAVINE, MENG HUO MARCHED CONFIDENTLY AT THE HEAD OF HIS NEWLY GATHERED ENORMOUS ARMY.



MEANWHILE,
KONGMING WAS
BUSY OVERSEEING
THE CONSTRUCTION
OF PONTOON
BRIDGES ALONG
THE WESTER RIVER



I WILL SEE FOR MYSELF.

SO THEY'VE COME?

SIR, THE NANMAN ARMY IS APPROACHING!

HMM...

THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE TO SHOW ALL THE NANMAN TRIBES OUR STRENGTH.

AN IMPRESSIVE FORCE MENG HUO'S MANAGED TO GATHER UP.

THE NANMAN TROOPS HAVE ONLY JUST ARRIVED, AND THEY ARE LIKELY EAGER TO PROVE THEMSELVES IN BATTLE. AN ENEMY AT HIS STRONGEST SHOULD NOT BE ATTACKED.

NO, NO.

SHALL I PROBE THEM WITH AN ATTACK?

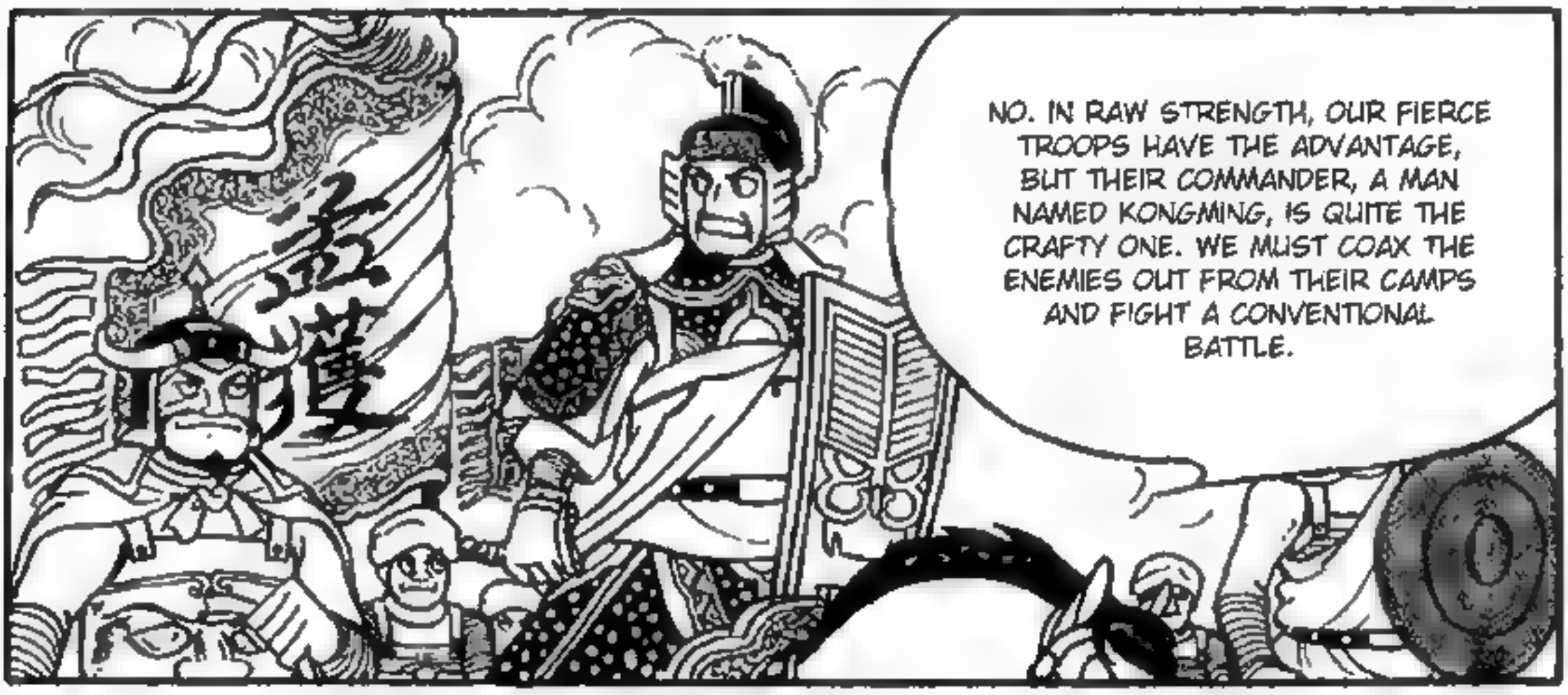
YES, SIR.

SIMPLY MAINTAIN A TIGHT DEFENSE OF OUR CAMPS AND OBSERVE THE SITUATION.

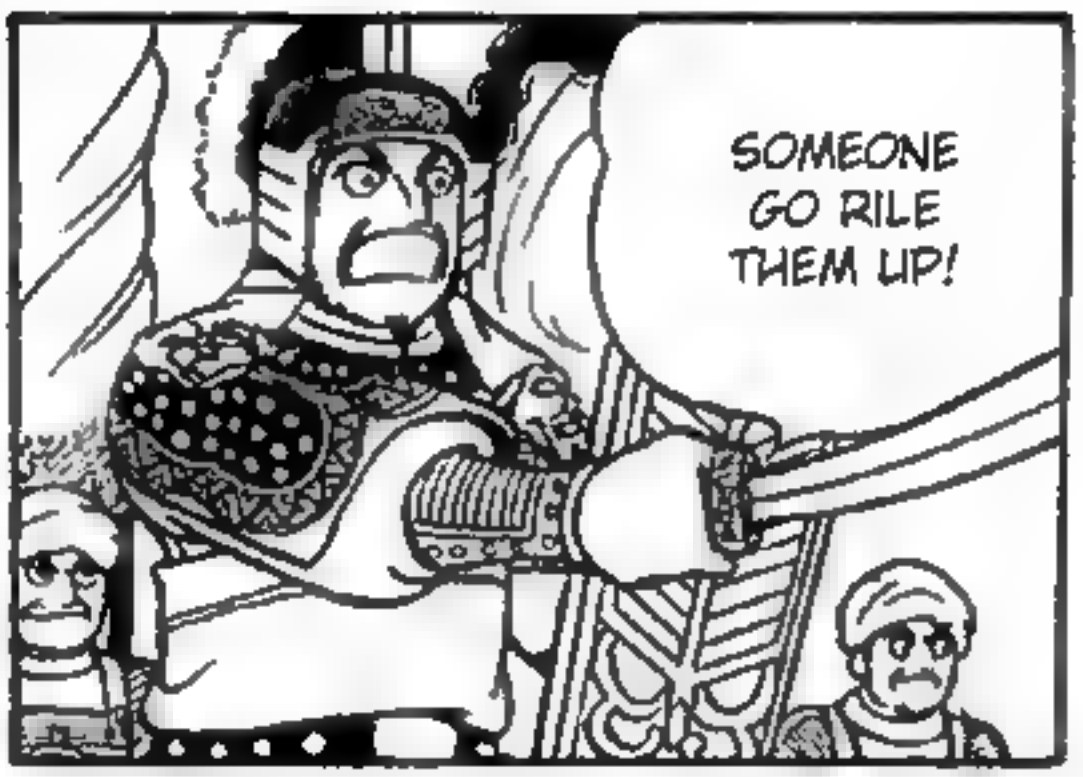
SHALL WE BRING THE ATTACK TO THEIR CAMPS THEN?

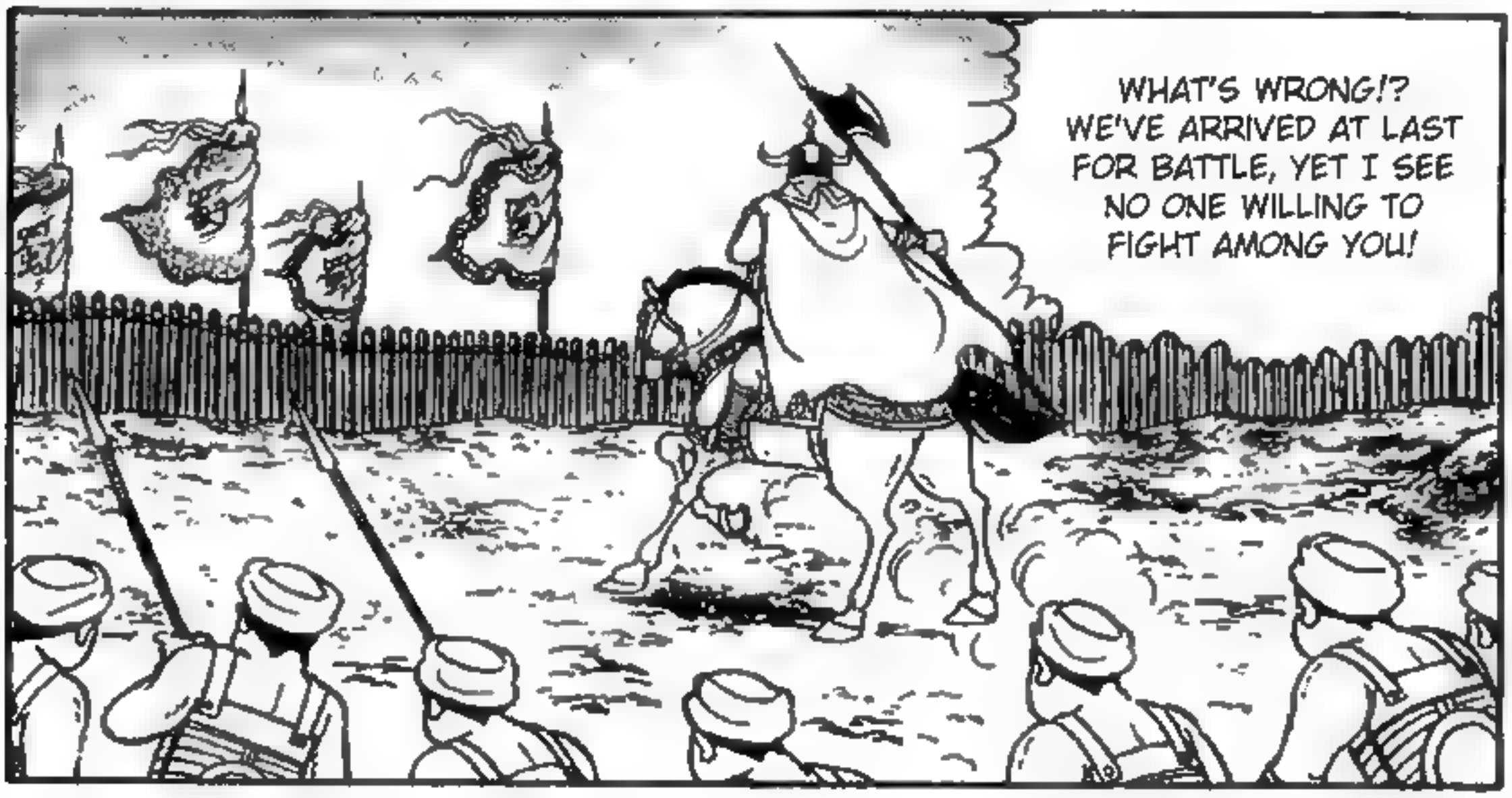
HAHA, THEY MUST HAVE SURELY WET THEIR PANTS UPON SEEING OUR GRAND ARMY ARRIVE.

THE SHU ARMY SHOWS NO SIGN OF ATTACKING.


NO. IN RAW STRENGTH, OUR FIERCE TROOPS HAVE THE ADVANTAGE, BUT THEIR COMMANDER, A MAN NAMED KONGMING, IS QUITE THE CRAFTY ONE. WE MUST COAX THE ENEMIES OUT FROM THEIR CAMPS AND FIGHT A CONVENTIONAL BATTLE.

ALLOW ME!


SOMEONE GO RILE THEM UP!


WHAT'S WRONG!? WE'VE ARRIVED AT LAST FOR BATTLE, YET I SEE NO ONE WILLING TO FIGHT AMONG YOU!

YEAH, STOP COWERING INSIDE YOUR CAMPS!
COME OUT AND PLAY ALREADY!

ARE WE SO SCARY TO YOU?

HA, SOUNDS FUN!
MEN! TAKE OFF YOUR ARMOUR AND DANCE AROUND NAKED!

IF THIS ISN'T A HANDICAP, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!
HEY! WE AIN'T EVEN WEARING ARMOUR NOW!

EHEE HEE!

HAVE ANY OF YOUR BALLS EVEN DROPPED YET?

EFFEMINATE HAN PANSIES!

CHANCELLOR! ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO LET THEM DANCE NAKED IN FRONT OF US!?

NGHH...

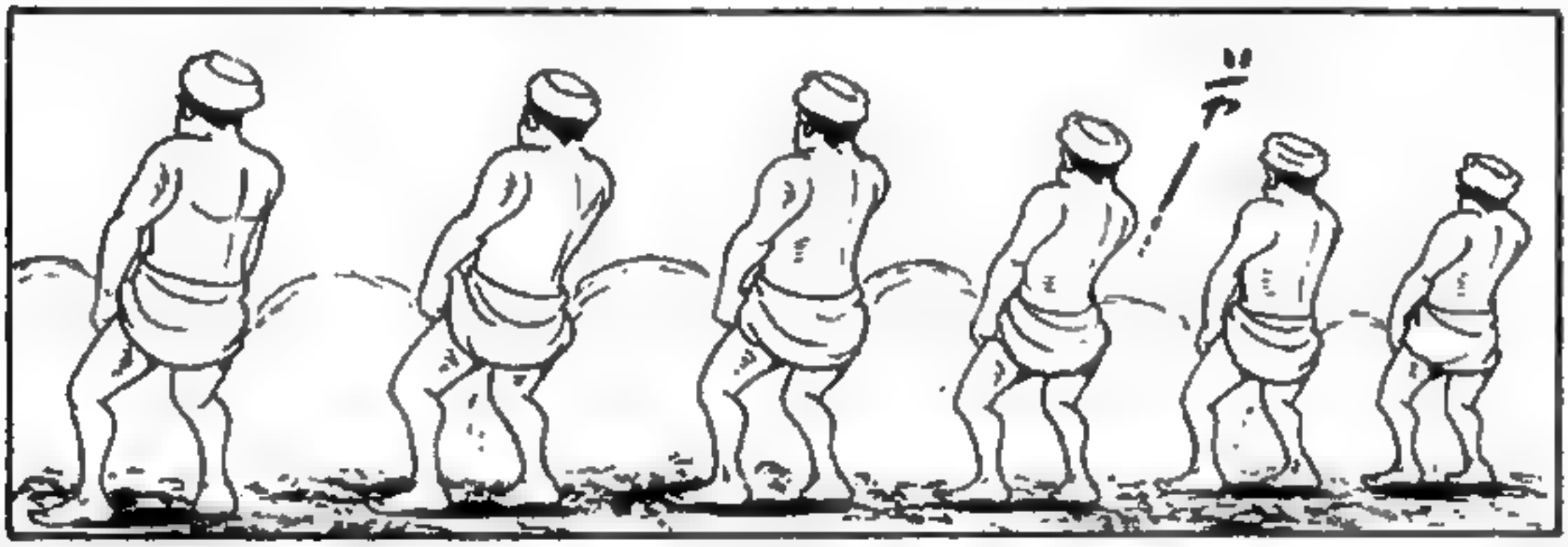
ABSOLUTELY NOT. JUST LET THEM DO WHAT THEY WILL.

WE CAN MAKE QUICK WORK OF THESE BARBARIANS! JUST GIVE US THE ORDER TO ATTACK!

HAHAHA!
HEY, HEY, HEY!

YES, SIR!
PISS IN THEIR DIRECTION!

YOU STILL WON'T COME OUT!?



THEY'RE MAKING FOOLS OUT OF US!

GRR...!

I TOLD YOU THEY WERE NOTHING TO FEAR.

WHAT THEY LACK IN BRAVERY, THEY HAVE IN TRICKS. VICTORY IS OURS AS LONG AS WE DON'T FALL FOR THEIR TRICKS.

THEY'RE EVEN MORE COWARDLY THAN I IMAGINED!

YES, I'LL GIVE THEM ALL THE HUMILIATION THEY DESERVE!

JUST KEEP RILING THEM UP TOMORROW AS WELL.

A TOAST TO VICTORY!

A TOAST TO OUR KING!

FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS,

THE MOCKERY CONTINUED, WITH THE NANMAN ANTICS BECOMING BOLDER AND BOLDER BY DAY

YES, LET'S.

LET'S GO TALK TO THE CHANCELLOR.

SAME HERE.

I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY MORE, WEI YAN!

WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH WITH THEIR ANTICS! PLEASE GIVE US THE ORDER TO ATTACK!

YES, WHAT BRINGS YOU GENERALS HERE?

CHANCEL-LOR!

I CANNOT BEAR THE SHAME EVEN A DAY LONGER!

DO NOT LET YOUR IMPATIENCE GET THE BETTER OF YOU. EVEN THEIR IDIOTIC ANTICS WILL NOT LAST FOREVER. THEY WILL TIRE OF IT BEFORE LONG.

UNTIL THE 6TH OR 7TH DAY, I'D IMAGINE...

HOW MUCH LONGER MUST WE WAIT!?

.....

UNTIL THEN, NO OFFENSIVE ACTIONS ARE ALLOWED, UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH. AM I CLEAR?

AFTER ABOUT A WEEK, THEY WILL HAVE LONG FORGOTTEN THEIR FIERCE DETERMINATION AND SIMPLY LOOK DOWN ON US LIKE PATHETIC ANTS.

WE COULD ANNHILATE THEIR ILK WITH A CONVENTIONAL ATTACK WITH LITTLE TROUBLE...

DAMN IT, I'LL GO INSANE BEFORE WE'RE ALLOWED TO ATTACK!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO EVEN FIGHT UNARMOURED, DANCING MEN?

WHAT'S WRONG? STILL FEELING A BIT SHY?

THESE CHICKEN-SHITS AREN'T EVEN WORTH TEASING!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH SCAREDY-CATS BEFORE!

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THIS...

YAWWN...

AT FIRST, THE NANMAN MEN MAY HAVE BEEN DANCING NAKED TO TEASE US, BUT YOU COULD STILL SENSE A STAUNCH DETER-MINATION TO FIGHT.

TAKE A LOOK, MEN.

IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR ACTION.

BUT NOW, THEY'VE LET DOWN THEIR GUARDS SO MUCH THEY HARDLY REALIZE THEY'RE IN A BATTLEFIELD.

YES, IT'S TIME TO CLEAR THAT PENT-UP STRESS.

WE CAN ATTACK NOW!?

YES?

YES?

ZHAO ZILONG, WEI YAN, WANG PING, AND MA ZHONG.

HA!

THANK YOU!

YES.

YES, SIR.

I WANT YOU FOUR TO...

WHISPER WHISPER

UNDER-STOOD.

WE WILL ABANDON OUR SOUTHERN CAMPS HERE TONIGHT. I WANT YOU TO MOVE THE PONTOON BRIDGE DOWNSTREAM OF THE RIVER ONCE ZHAO ZILONG AND WEI YAN HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER.

MA DAI.

YES?

STAY BEHIND AT THE CAMPS AND LIGHT THE TORCHES SO IT APPEARS OUR TROOPS ARE STILL HERE.

YES?

ZHANG YI.

YES, SIR.

ONCE MENG HUO REALIZES OUR CAMP IS EMPTY, HE WILL RECKLESSLY PURSUE US. YOU ARE TO POSITION YOURSELF BEHIND HIM SO AS TO CUT OFF HIS RETREAT ROUTE.

YES, SIR.
CARRY OUT MY ORDERS ONCE THE SUN SETS.
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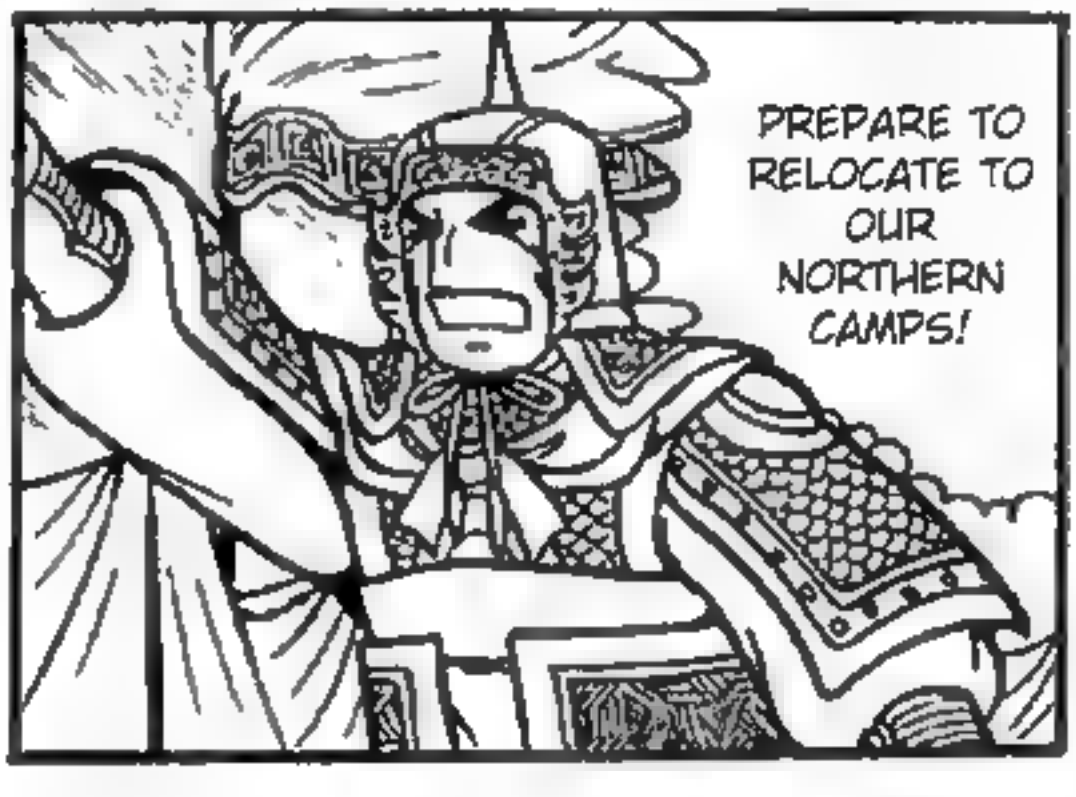
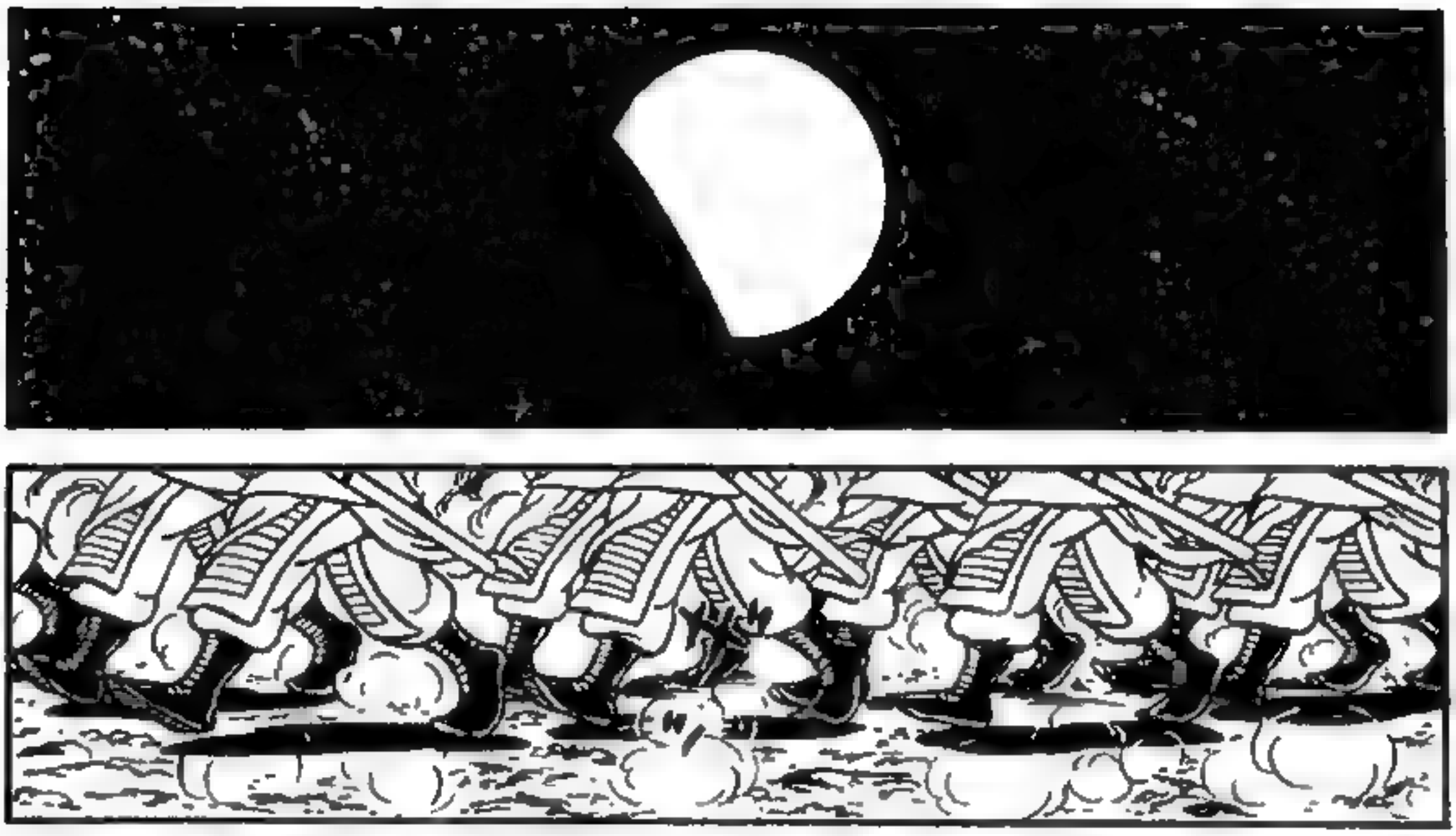
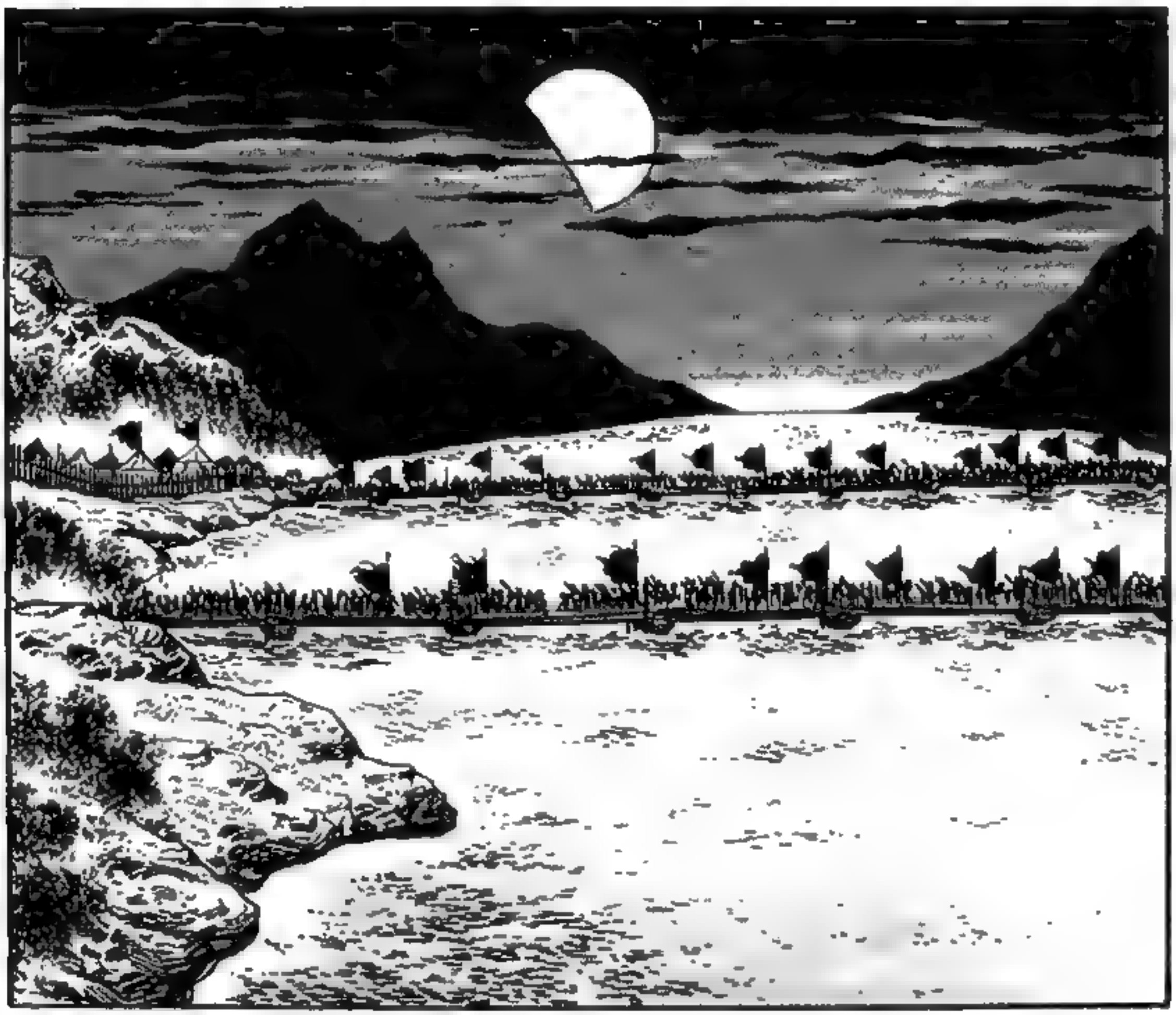
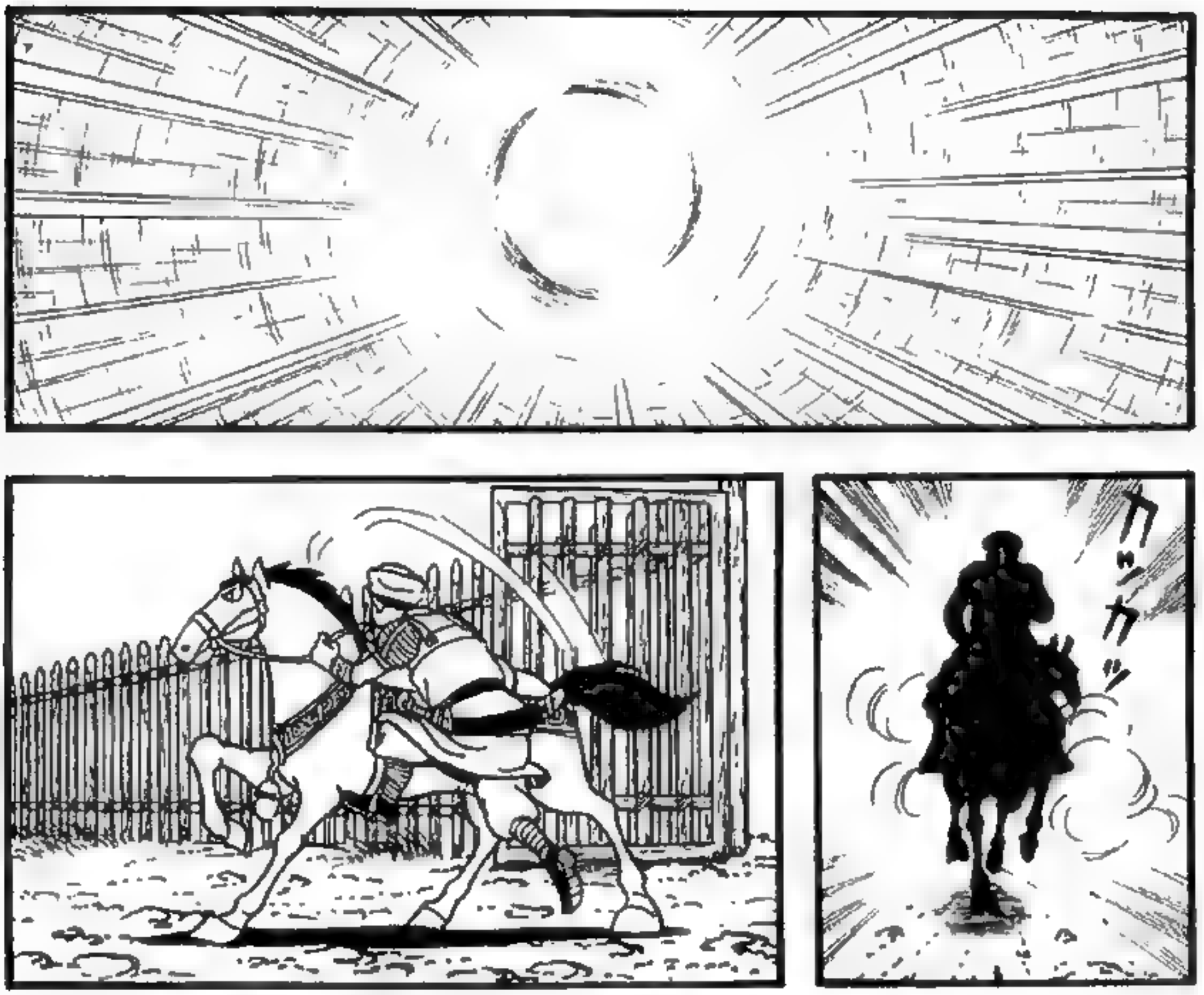
WE WILL ABANDON OUR SOUTHERN CAMPS AND MOVE TO OUR NORTHERN CAMPS TONIGHT!

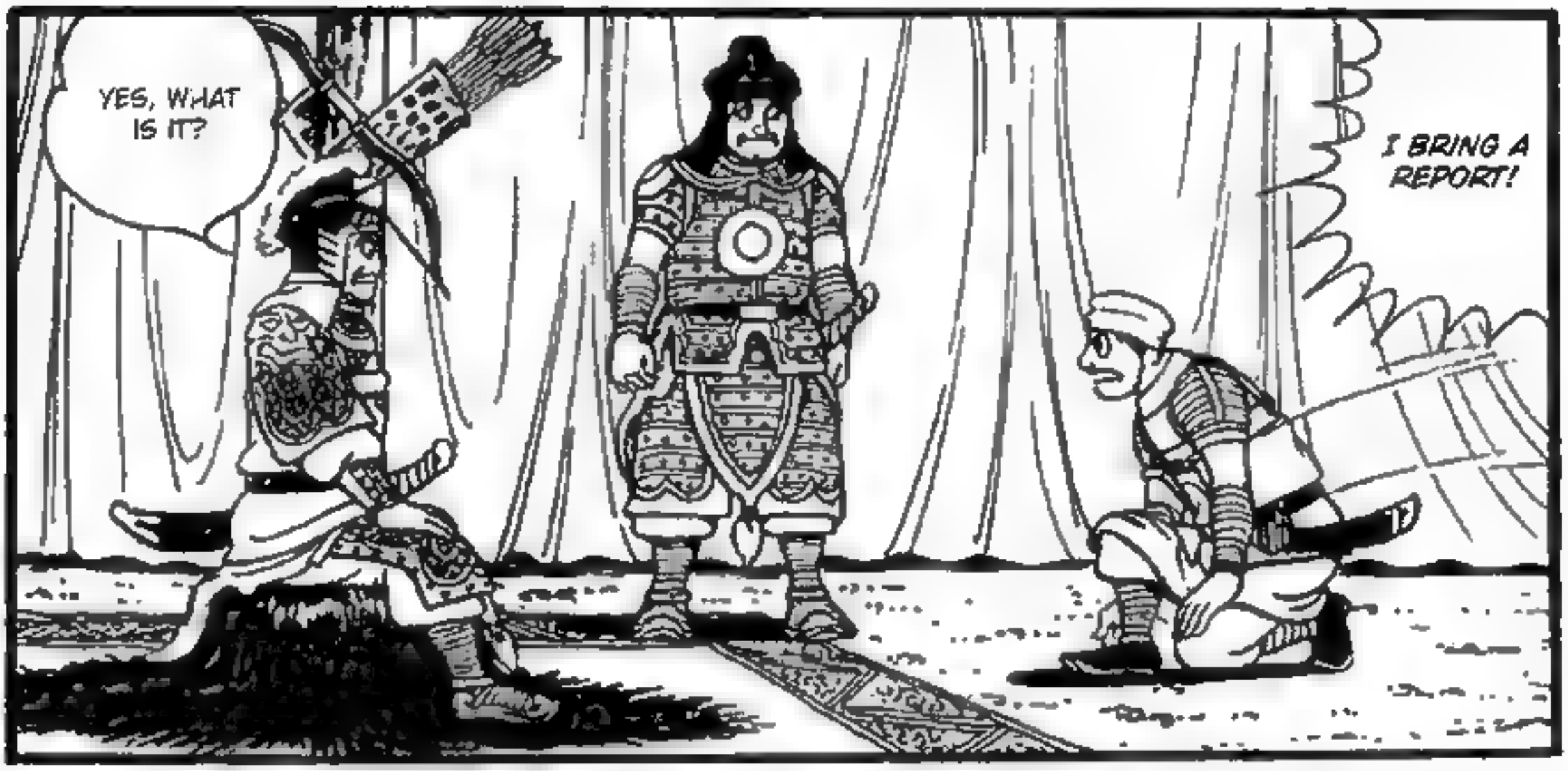

PREPARE TO RELOCATE TO OUR NORTHERN CAMPS!





FOURTH TIME BOUND BY ROPE

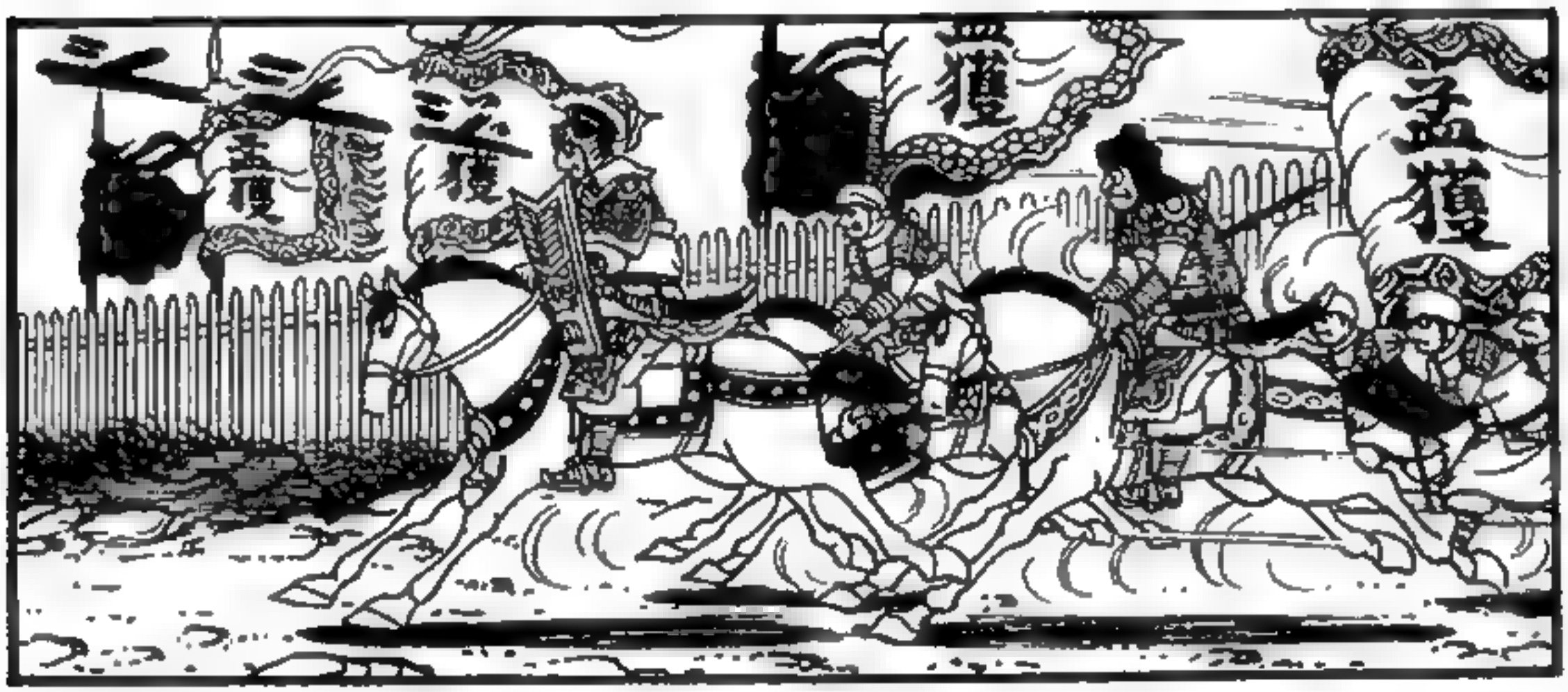



YES, WHAT IS IT?
I BRING A REPORT!

I'LL GO SEE FOR MYSELF.

NO SMOKES?

THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE ENEMY CAMPS. I COULD NOT SEE THE USUAL MORNING SMOKES FROM THEIR COOKING FIRES.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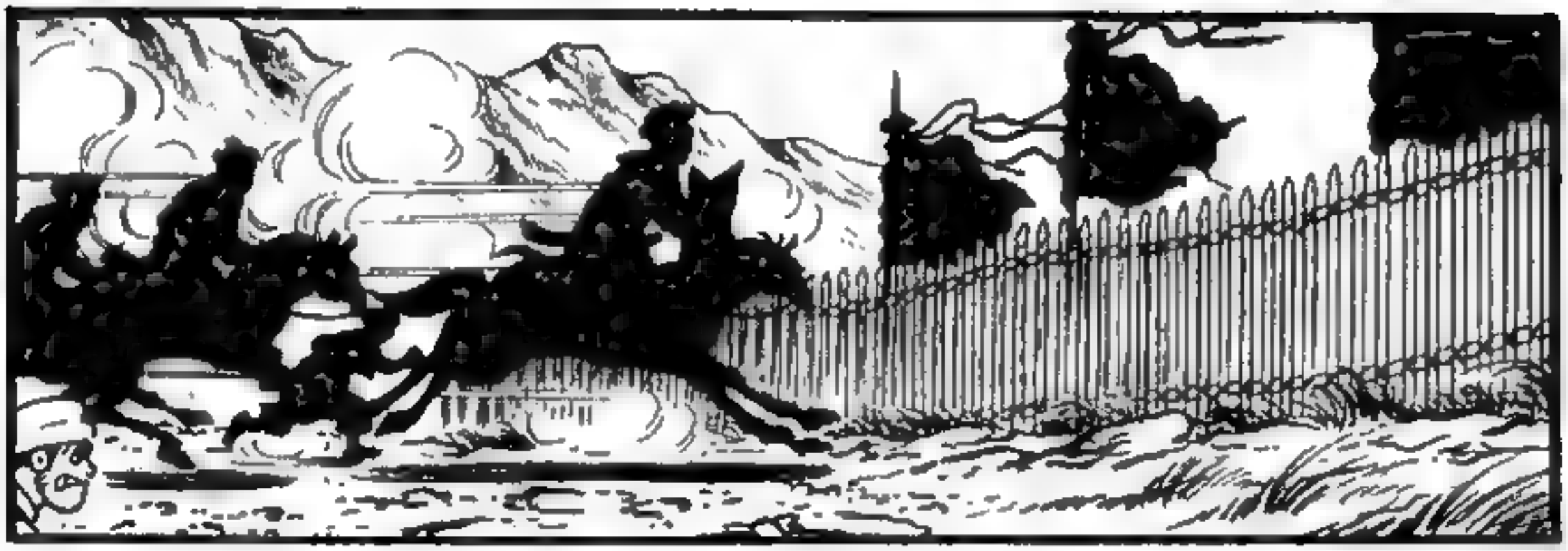
LET US APPROACH CLOSER!

THE SCOUT'S RIGHT. I CAN'T SENSE ANY HUMAN PRESENCE HERE...



ONLY THE FLAGS ARE STILL STANDING. THERE ARE NO GUARDS AT ALL, SIR.

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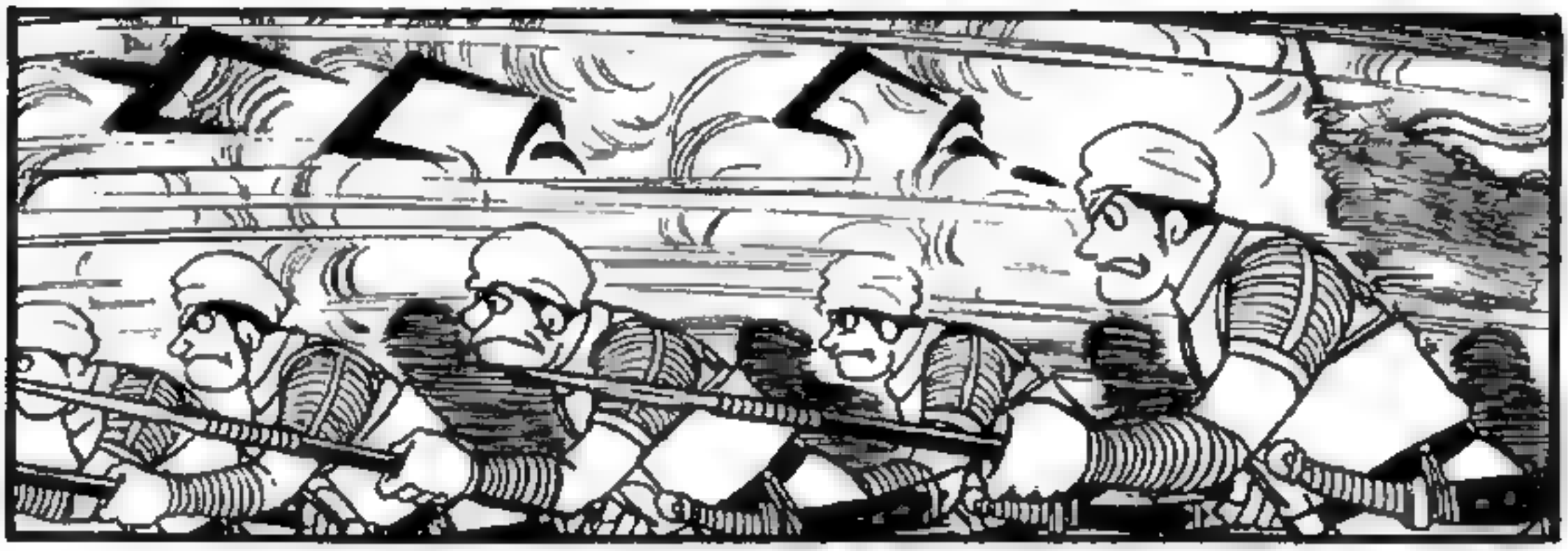
HM...

YES, LET'S CHARGE IN!
WE'RE CHARGING IN!



HM?

HM?

YES, AND THEY LEFT MOST OF THEIR SUPPLIES STILL HERE.

JUST LIKE WE SUSPECTED, THE CAMP IS EMPTY. THEY MUST HAVE WITHDRAWN LAST NIGHT.

BACK IN SHU?

PERHAPS SOMETHING HAPPENED BACK IN THEIR HOMELANDS.

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY SUDDENLY ABANDONED THEIR WELL-DEFENDED FORTIFIED CAMP?

IN ANY CASE, IT WAS SOMETHING URGENT ENOUGH FOR THEM TO WITHDRAW AT ONCE WITHOUT TAK'NG ALL THEIR SUPPLIES.

THAT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME, SINCE THEY SEEM TO HAVE BROUGHT MOST OF THEIR TROOPS DOWN HERE

PERHAPS WEI OR WU HAS INVADED THEIR LANDS.

NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO STRIKE! WE MUST PURSUE AND KILL THE FOREIGNERS!

CLAAA

AH!

HM?

YES, AND IT'S WELL-FORTIFIED TOO. WE CAN'T RISK A HASTY ATTACK...

THEY HAVE ANOTHER CAMP ACROSS THE RIVER...

TRICKS?

DON'T WORRY, THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF KONGMING'S TRICKS

THAT SECOND CAMP ACROSS THE RIVER IS MERELY A STOPGAP MEASURE TO KEEP US AT A DISTANCE WHILE THEY SAFELY WITHDRAW MORE AND MORE TROOPS BACK NORTH.

IF THEY WERE TRULY INTENT ON FIGHTING US, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN SUCH A HURRY AS TO LEAVE THEIR SUPPLIES BEHIND AT THIS CAMP.

IN 2 OR 3 DAYS, EVEN THAT CAMP WILL BE COMPLETELY EMPTY.

YES, SIR.

FOR THE TIME BEING, START BUILDING RAFTS SO WE CAN CROSS THE RIVER.

SPLENDID!

AND AS I PROMISED, YOU MAY KEEP THE LOOT FOR YOURSELVES!

HAHAHA!
HEE HEE!
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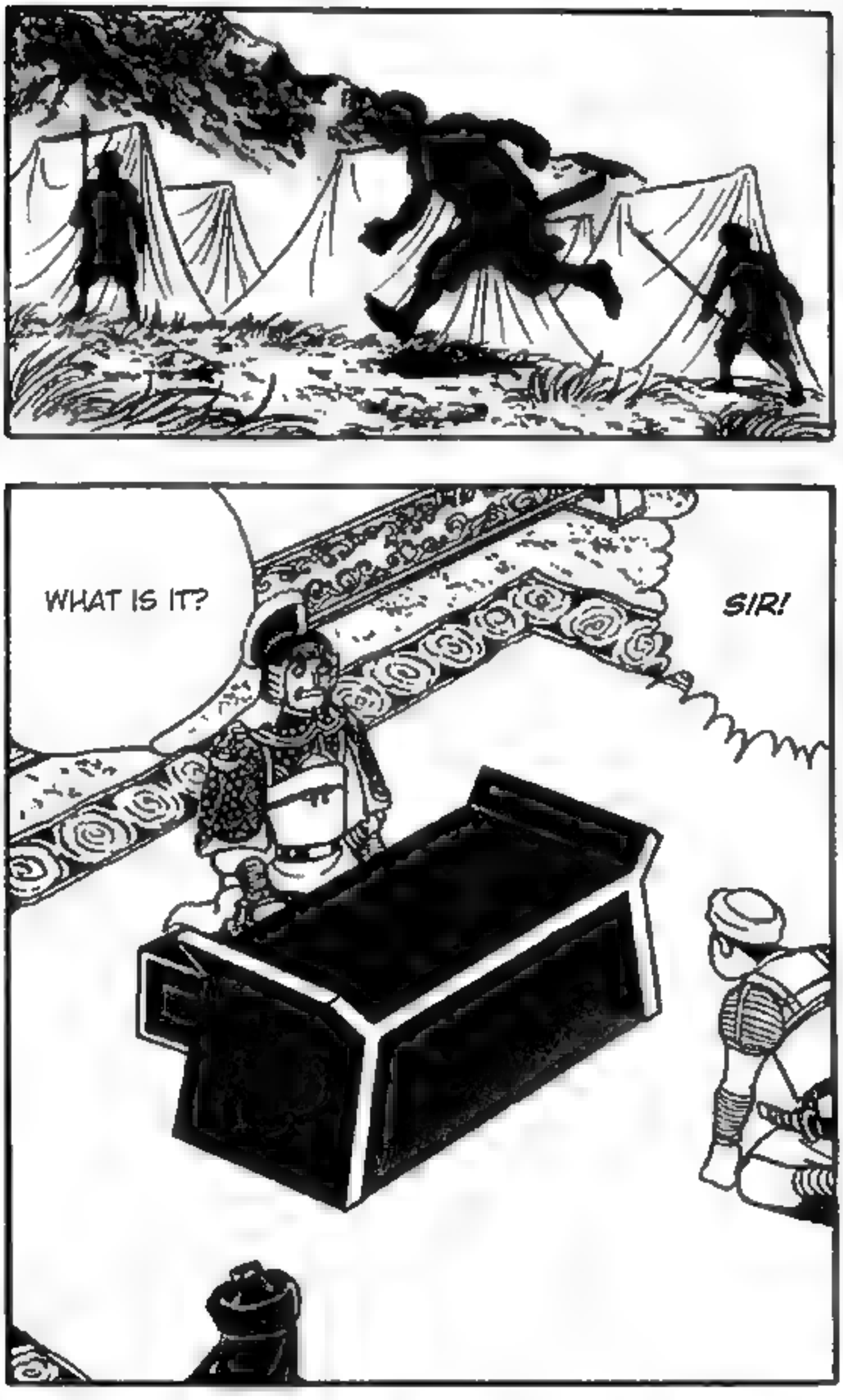
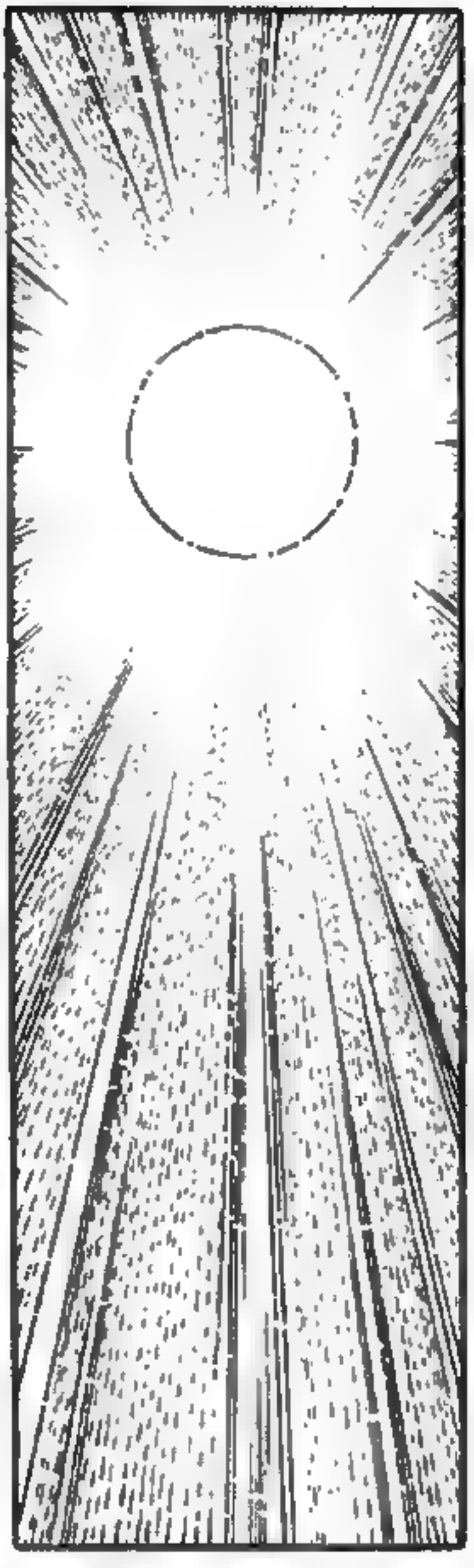

WHAT IS IT?
SIR!



IS THAT SO!?

JUST AS YOU PREDICTED, THE NUMBER OF TROOPS IN THE CAMP ACROSS THE RIVER SEEM TO HAVE DECREASED.

THEIR CAMP WILL BE EMPTY IN ANOTHER DAY OR SO!

HEAR THAT? IT'S JUST LIKE I SAID! THE ENEMIES ARE FOCUSED ON WITHDRAWING THEIR TROOPS!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO THEN?

NOT ENOUGH YET, BUT PROGRESS IS GOING SMOOTHLY.

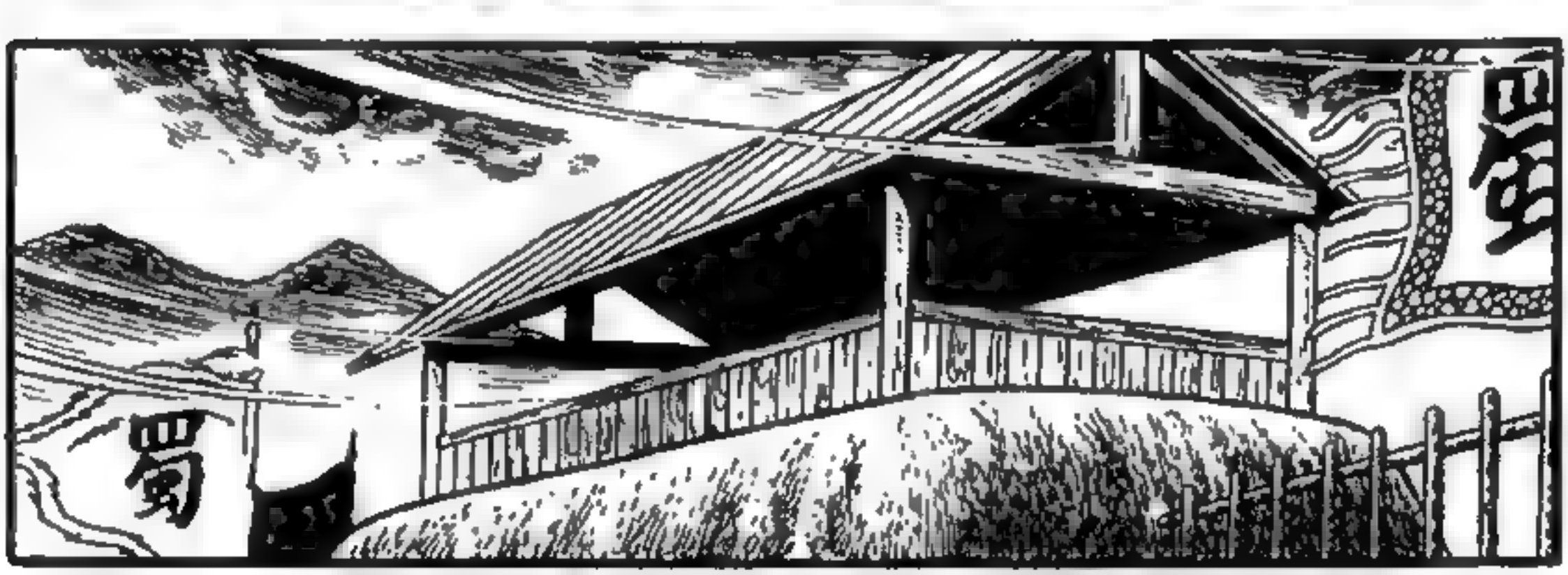
HOW MANY RAFTS DO WE HAVE SO FAR?

YES, SIR.

SPEED UP THE CONSTRUCTION! AND I WANT SCOUTS WATCHING THE ENEMY CAMP LIKE A HAWK!

WELL, BROTHER? CAN YOU SEE ANY SOLDIERS?

DON'T THINK SO...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OHH!

WE MUST PURSUE THEM AT ONCE! BRING OUT THE RAFTS AND CROSS THE RIVER NOW!

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY'RE TRYING TO PIN US WITH THAT EMPTY CAMP FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE WHILE THEY HEAD BACK NORTH.

OUR KING HAS ORDERED US TO CROSS THE RIVER AND CHASE DOWN THE FLEEING ENEMIES!

LOOK AT THE SKY!

WAIT!

YOU'RE RIGHT...
STORM CLOUDS ARE HEADING THIS WAY. IT'S TOO RISKY TO CROSS THE RIVER NOW.

I'LL GO CONSULT WITH MY BROTHER.

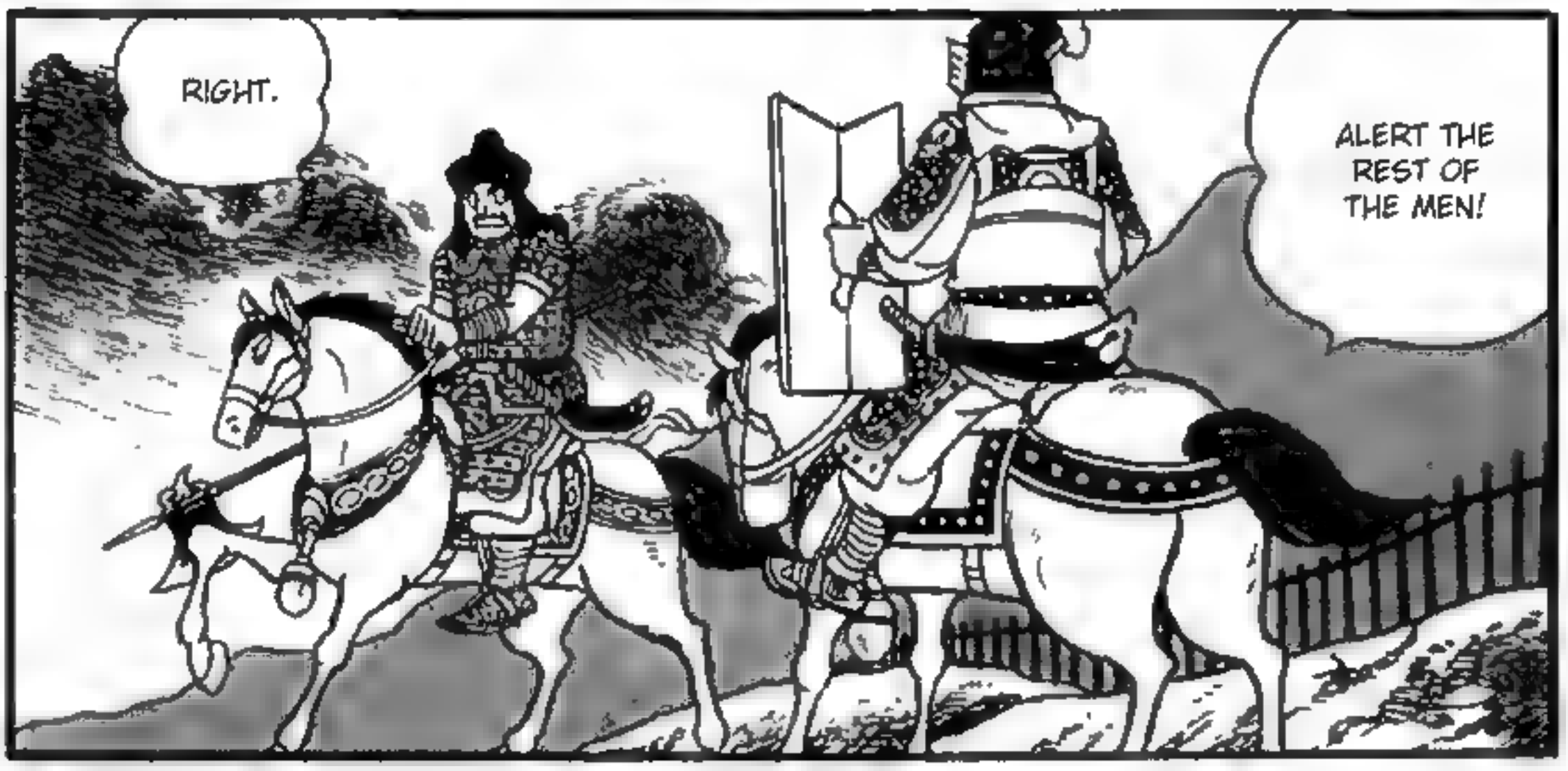
BROTHER!

STORM CLOUDS ARE HEADING THIS WAY, ENDANGERING THE RIVER CROSSING!

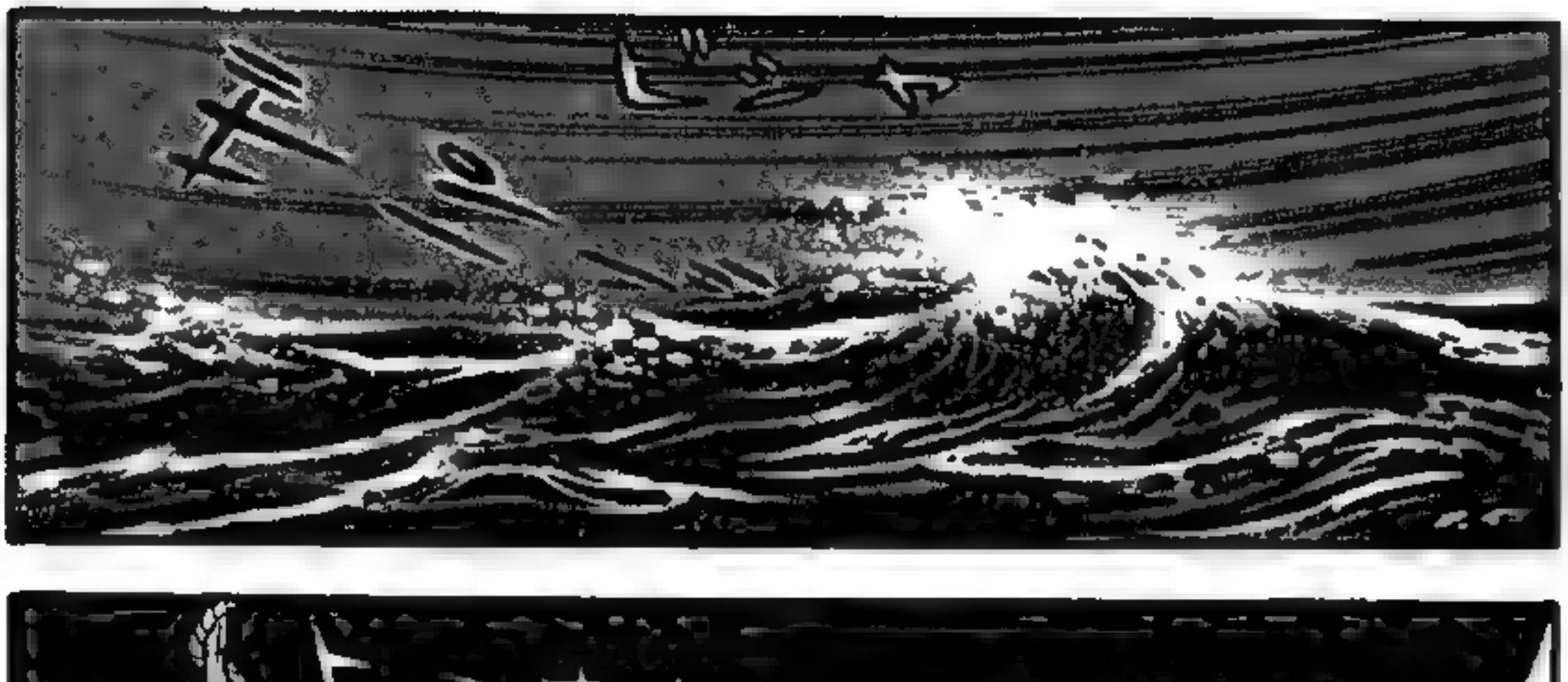
ごオン

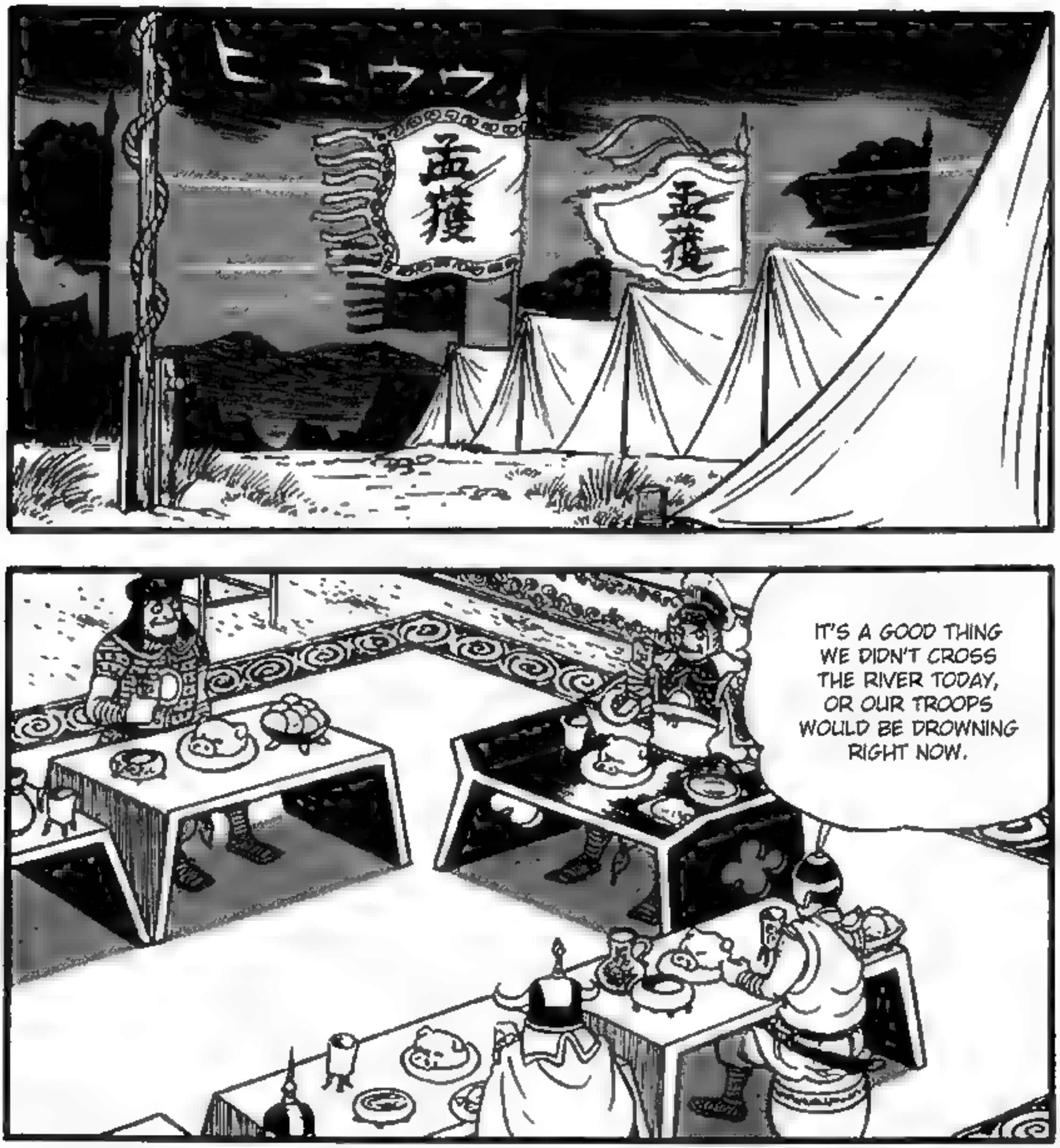
FINE, CALL OFF THE RIVER CROSSING UNTIL THE WEATHER CLEARS UP.

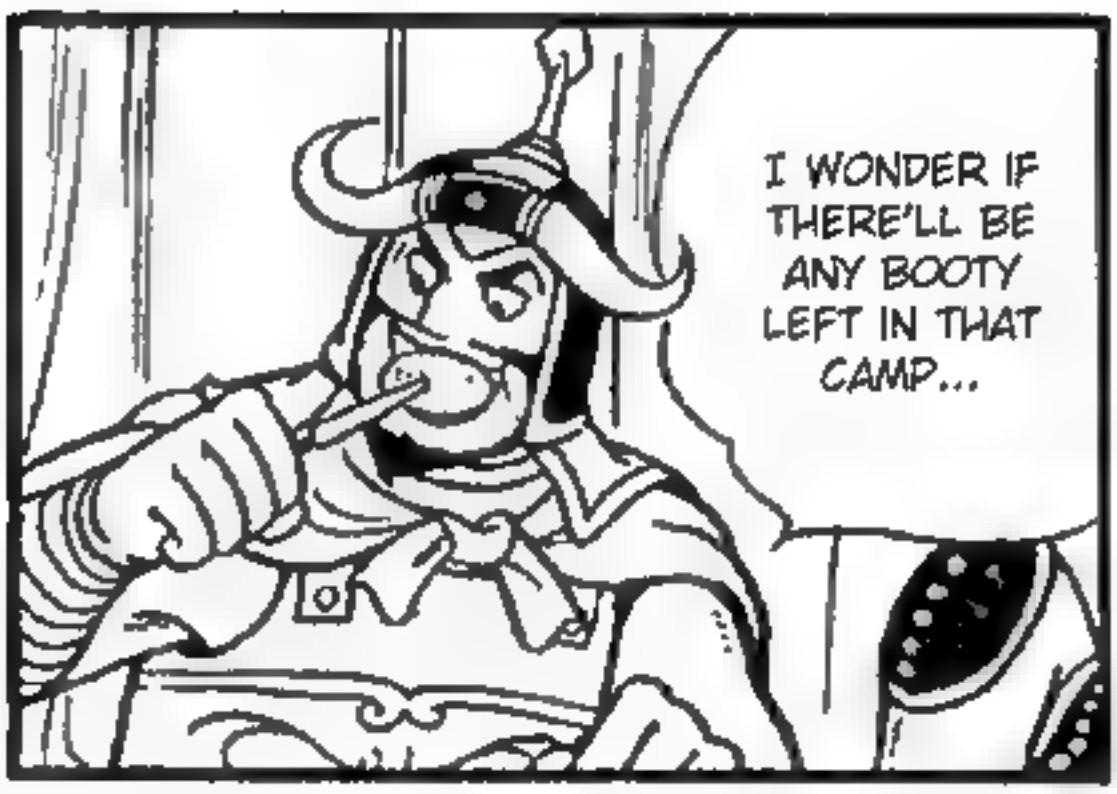
THOSE CLOUDS DO LOOK OMINOUS...


RIGHT.
ALERT THE REST OF THE MEN!

HALT THE RIVER CROSSING! SECURE THE RAFTS SO THEY DON'T WASH AWAY IN CASE OF A STORM!




IT'S A GOOD THING WE DIDN'T CROSS THE RIVER TODAY, OR OUR TROOPS WOULD BE DROWNING RIGHT NOW.

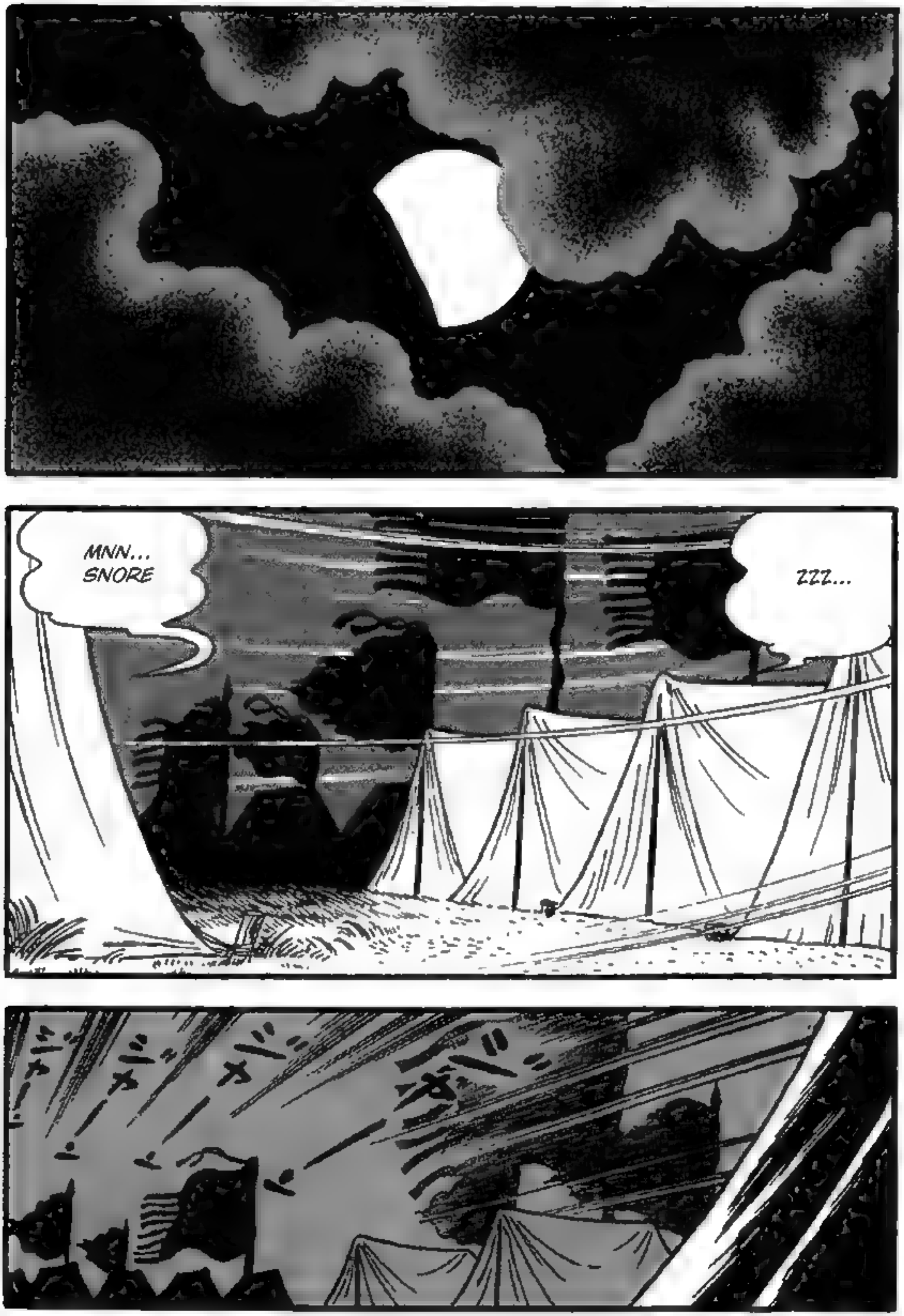

I WONDER IF THERE'LL BE ANY BOOTY LEFT IN THAT CAMP...

SINCE MOST OF THE ENEMIES HAVE LEFT, WE CAN SLEEP EASY TONIGHT.

THAT'LL BE GREAT!

HAHA, AS MUCH AS WE FOUND IN THIS CAMP, I'LL BET!

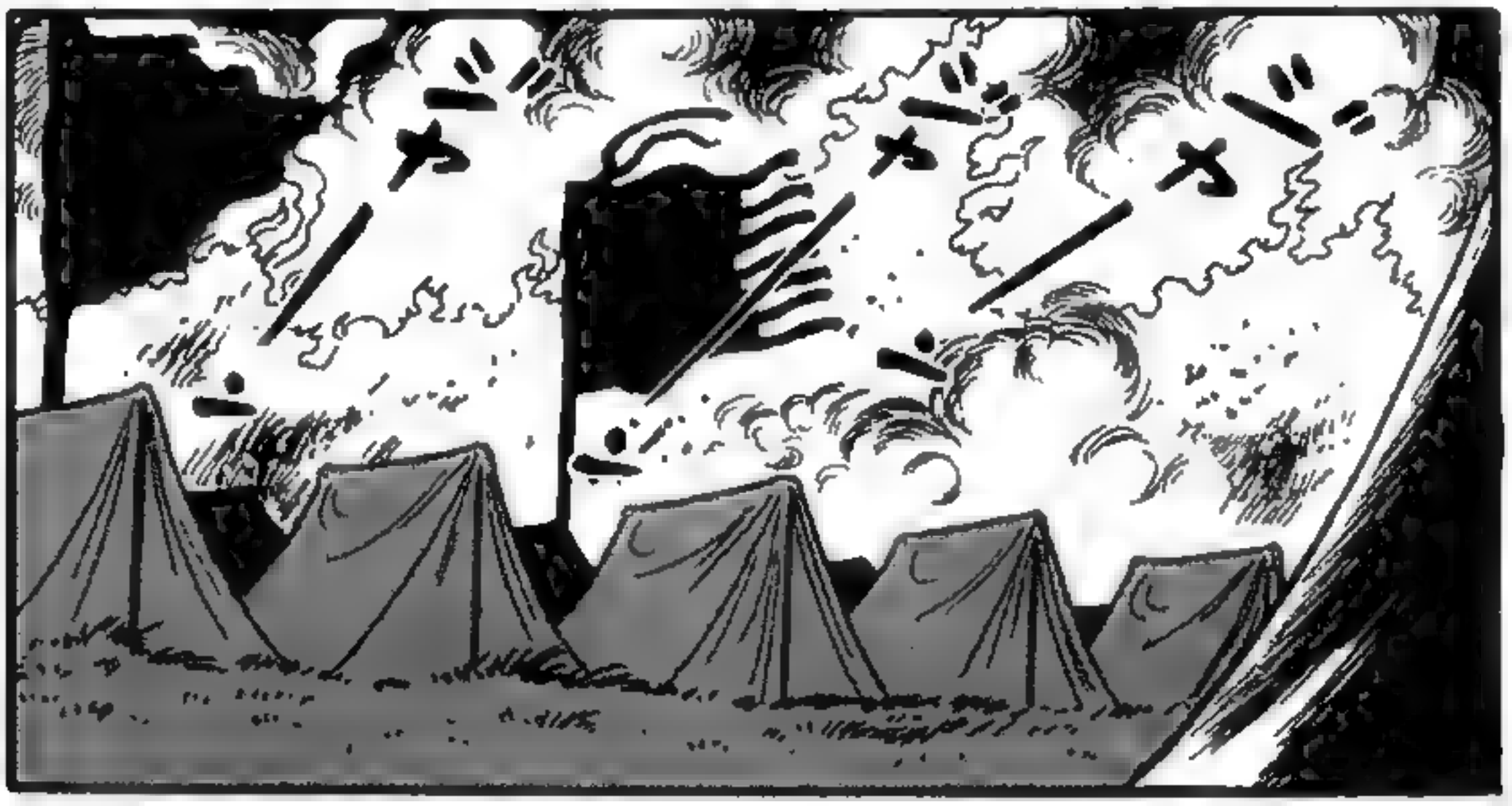
A TOAST TO NANMAN SUPERIORITY!
HAHAHA, A TOAST TO OUR GREAT KING!


MNN...
SNORE
ZZZ...

?
WHA?

HM?

AGHH!

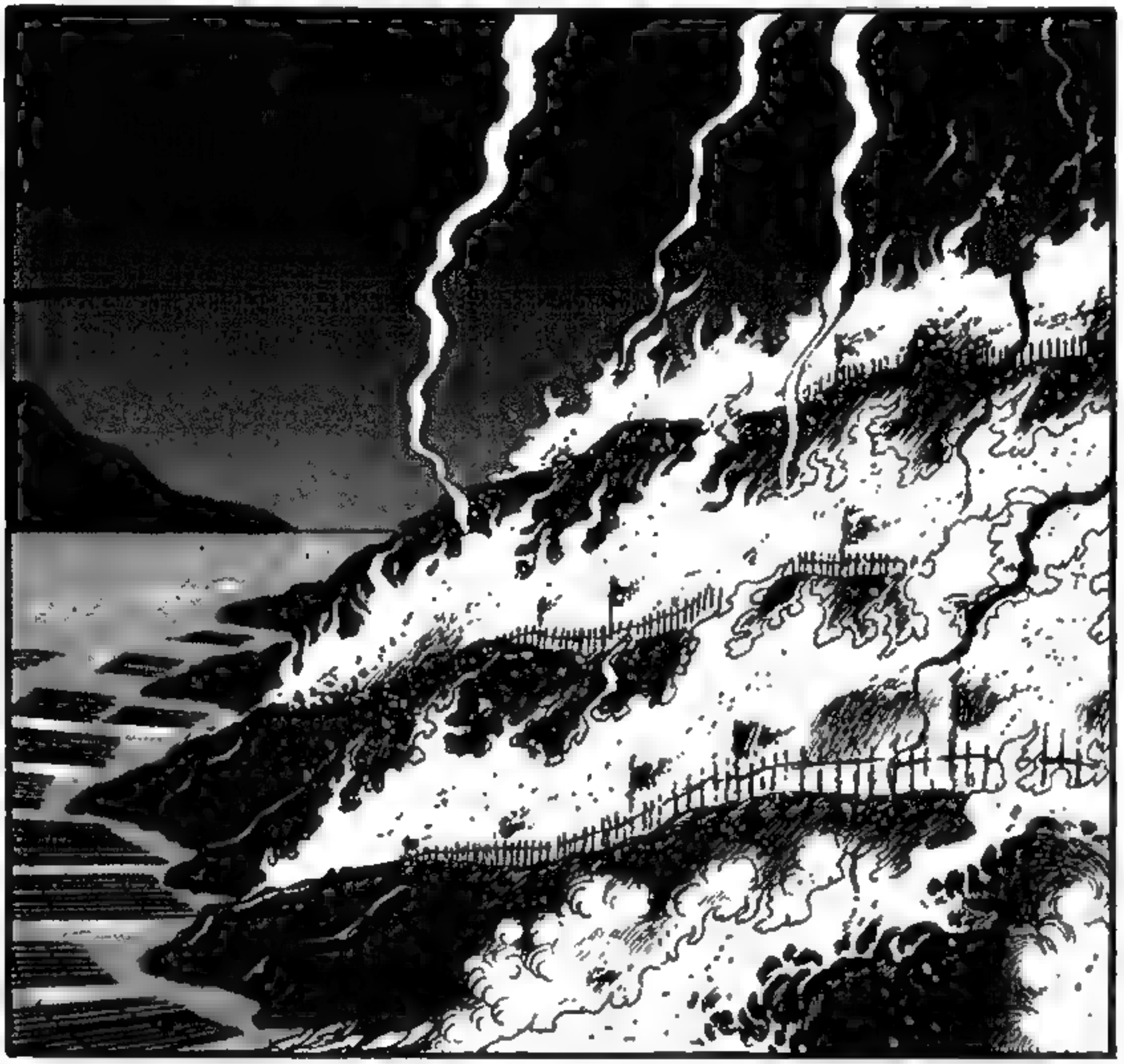


SIR, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE HERE! YOU MUST FLEE TO OUR OTHER CAMPS!

ENEMIES!? ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER!? WHERE'D THEY COME FROM!?

RIGHT!

AHHH!



WE MUST FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE FROM THIS BURNING HELL! I CAN'T BE CAUGHT AGAIN!

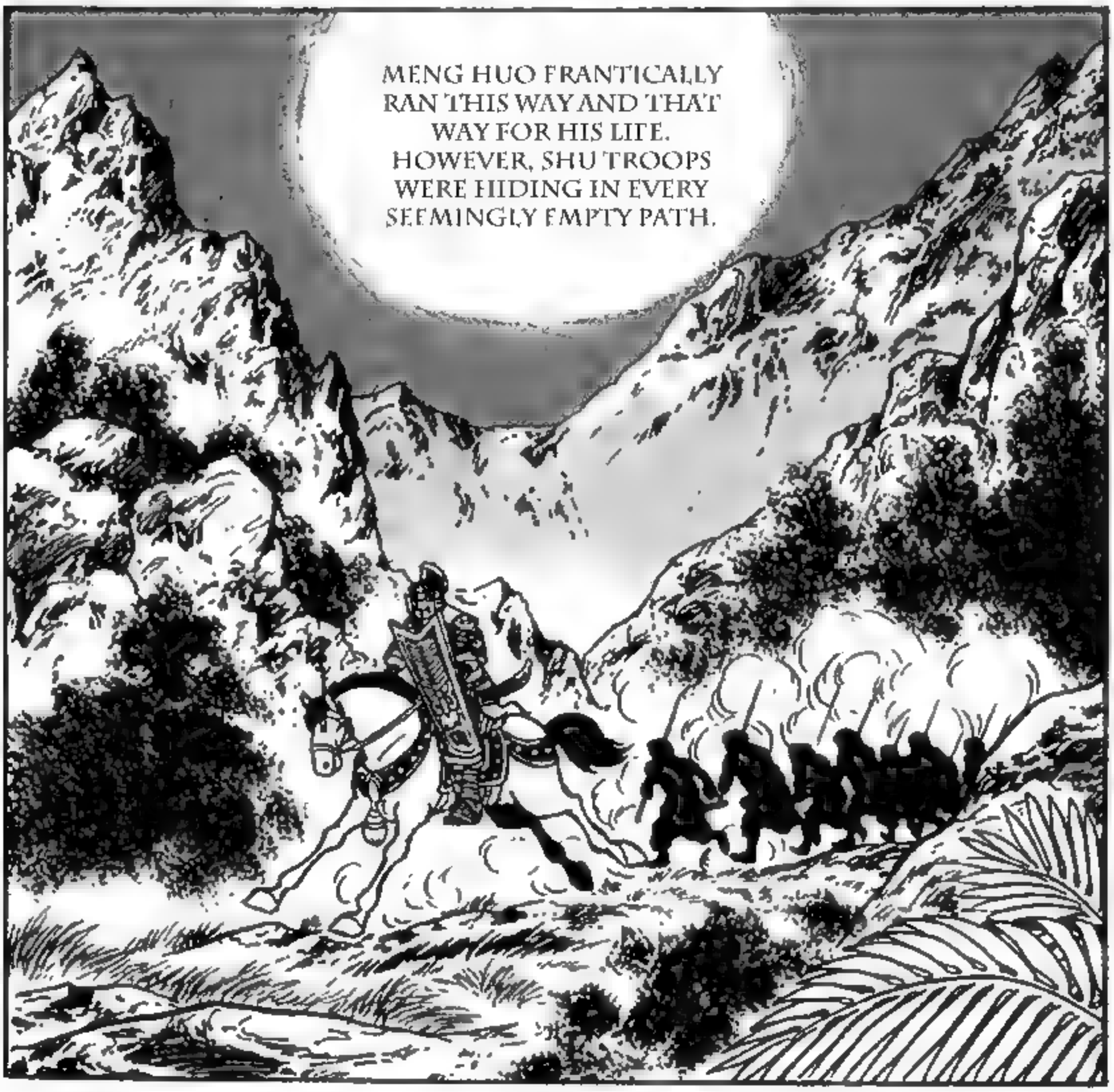
THE OTHER CAMPS ARE ON FIRE TOO!

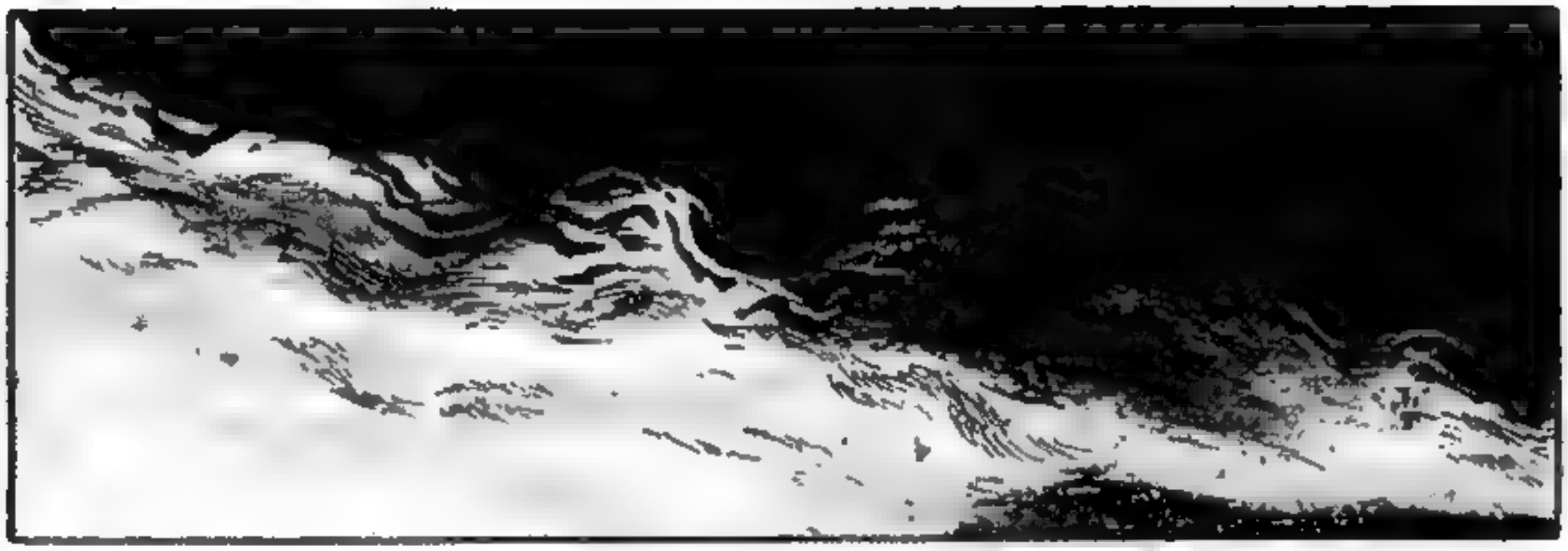
AGHH! MA DAI!

WAIT RIGHT THERE, MENG HUO!

AGHHH!

THEY'RE HERE AS WELL!


MENG HUO FRANTICALLY RAN THIS WAY AND THAT WAY FOR HIS LIFE. HOWEVER, SHU TROOPS WERE HIDING IN EVERY SEEMINGLY EMPTY PATH.



ARE YOU THE ONLY ONES THAT MANAGED TO KEEP UP?

HUFF HUFF...

YES, THE OTHERS... FELL BEHIND...

HM?

CURSES! YOU MAY HAVE TRICKED ME AGAIN, KONGMING, BUT AT LEAST I MANAGED TO ESCAPE!

大諸侯

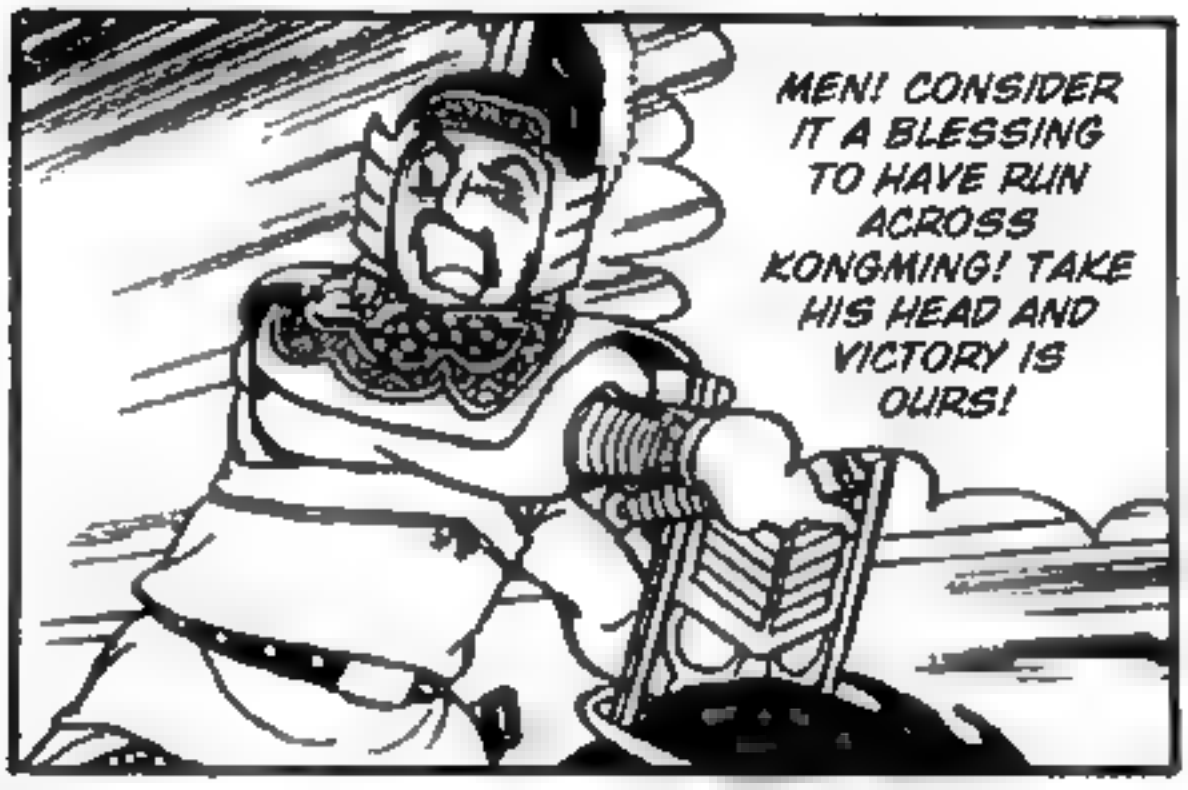
漢武鄉侯諸葛亮

大諸葛
HOW NICE OF YOU TO FINALLY SHOW UP, MENG HUO. YOU'VE KEPT ME WAITING, YOU KNOW.

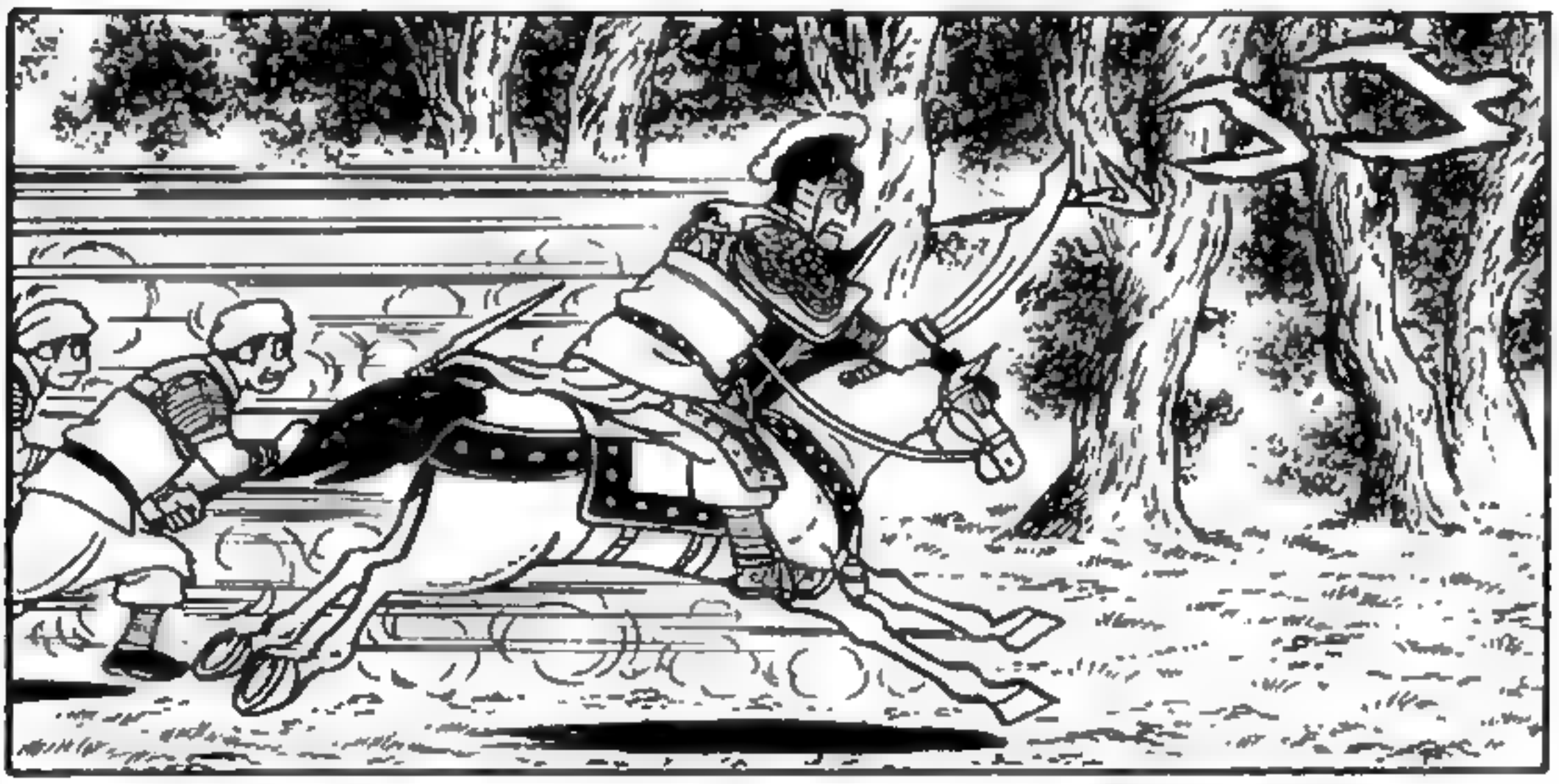
KONG-MING!?

YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T LOSE WHEN IT CAME TO MARTIAL VALOUR, BUT HERE YOU ARE, FLEEING IN ALL DIRECTIONS LIKE A FRIGHTENED RABBIT.

NGHH...

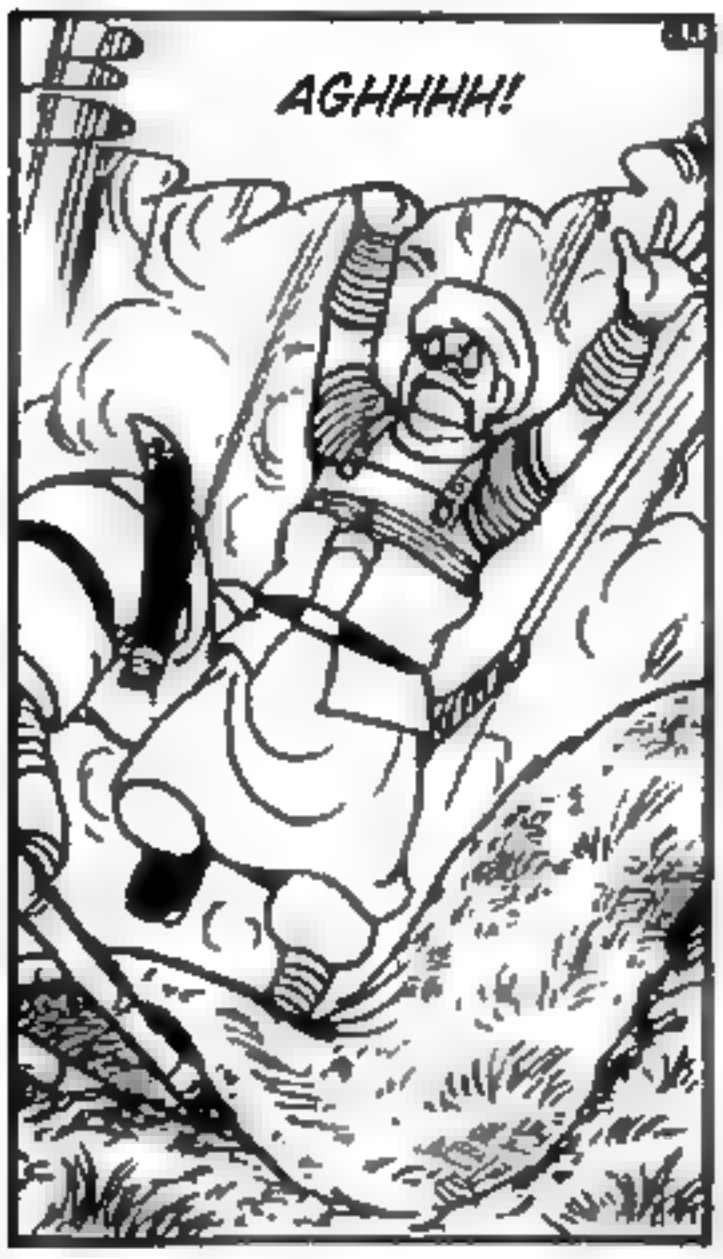

MEN! CONSIDER IT A BLESSING TO HAVE RUN ACROSS KONGMING! TAKE HIS HEAD AND VICTORY IS OURS!

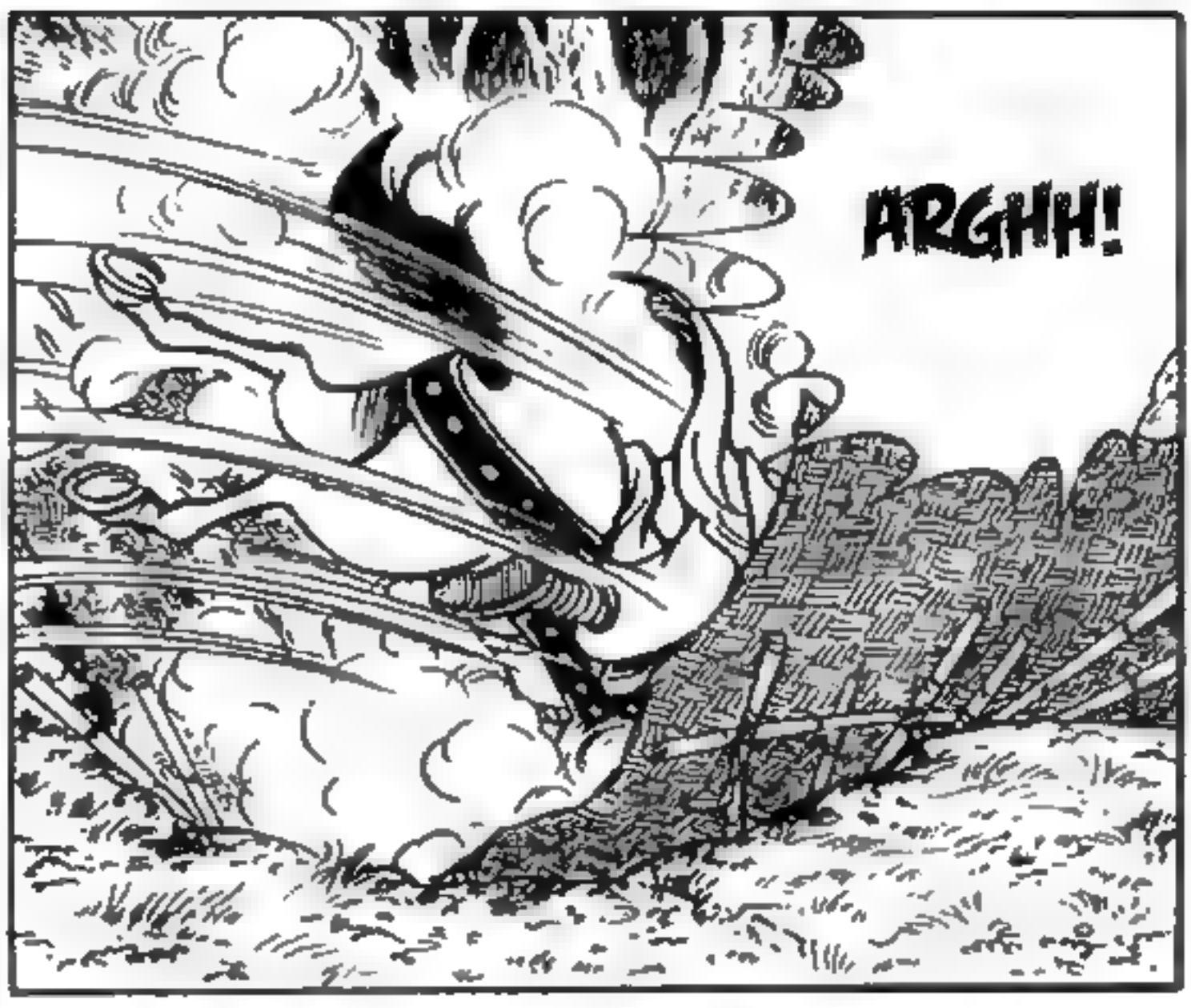
S-SHUT UP! I WAS NOT FLEEING! I WAS SEARCH-ING FOR YOU ALL ALONG!



YES, SIR.
TAKE ME AWAY.

HA! NOW WHO'S THE ONE RUNNING AWAY!?

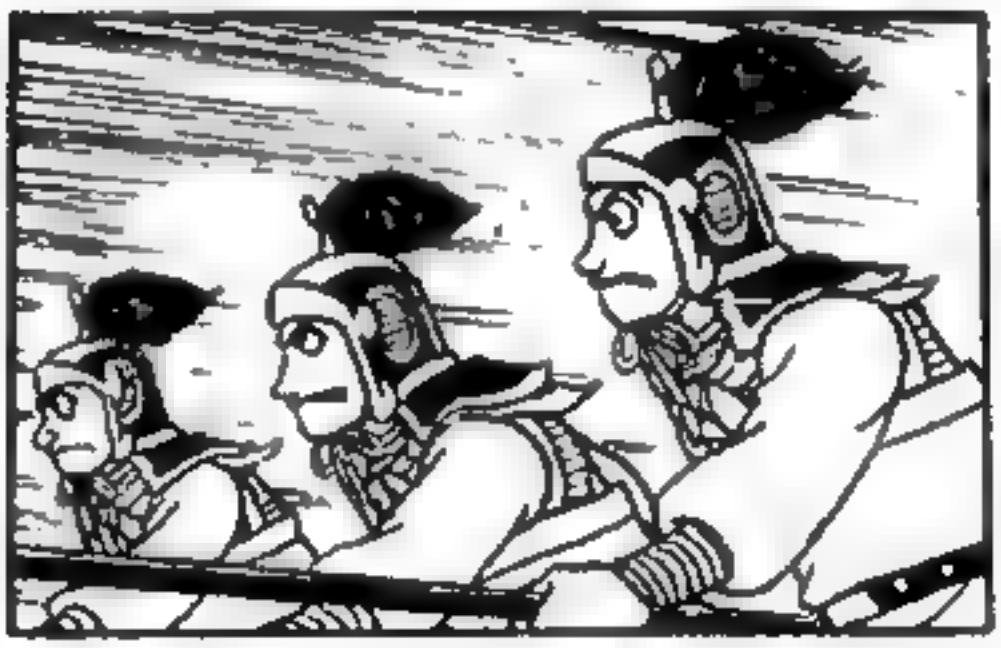

AGHHHH!


ARGHH!

YES, SIR.

WEI YAN!

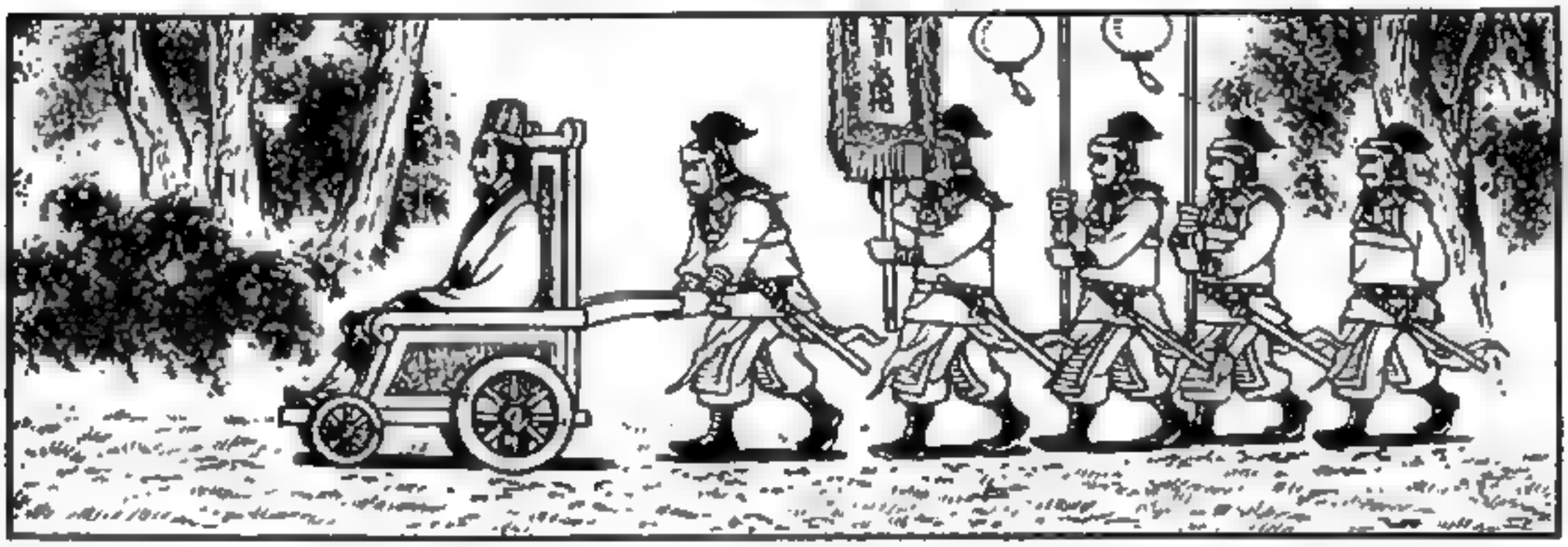
MEN!



GLADLY.

ARREST THEM.

RESIST AND CONSIDER YOUR LIVES FORFEIT!



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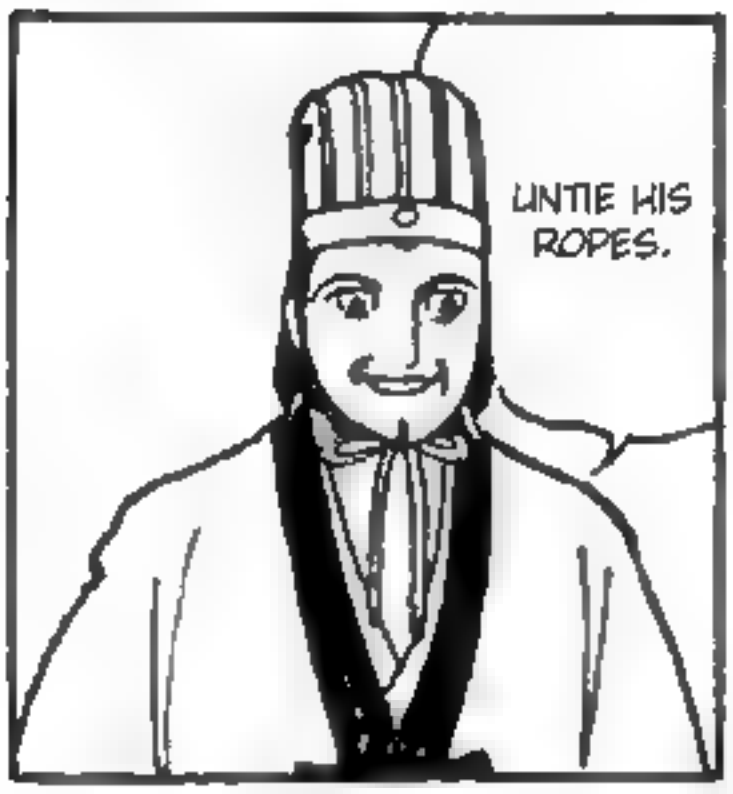

UNTIE HIS ROPES.

MENG YOU, I REALLY DO THINK THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR BROTHER. THIS IS ALREADY THE FOURTH TIME I'VE CAPTURED HIM AND YET HE'S STILL AS STUBBORN AS EVER, AS IF SHAME IS SUCH A FOREIGN CONCEPT FOR HIM. I PLEAD YOU TO ADVISE HIM WELL ON THESE MATTERS.

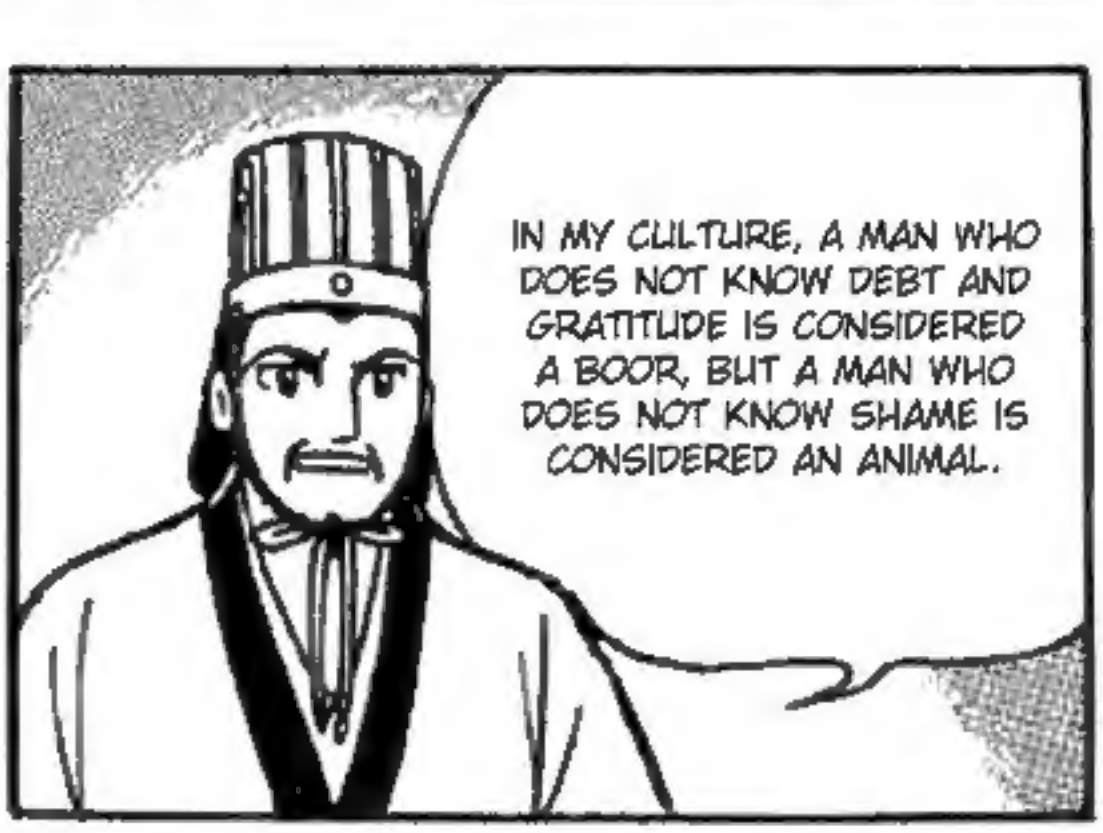
FORGIVE US, SIR...

BRING MENG HUO IN.

YES, SIR.

MENG HUO! HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU PLAN TO COME BEFORE ME BOUND IN ROPES!?

YOU ARE A MOST SPECIAL CASE, AND PERHAPS EVEN LOWER THAN A DOG! YET YOU CALL YOURSELF KING!?


IN MY CULTURE, A MAN WHO DOES NOT KNOW DEBT AND GRATITUDE IS CONSIDERED A BOOR, BUT A MAN WHO DOES NOT KNOW SHAME IS CONSIDERED AN ANIMAL.

AS PROMISED, YOU WILL NOW BE EXECUTED.

!!!

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO DIE SO BADLY, THEN WHY NOT SUBMIT ALREADY?

I CANNOT DIE LIKE THIS, BEING CALLED A SHAME-LESS MAN BELOW EVEN ANIMALS! I MUST BEAT YOU AT LEAST ONCE TO CLEAR AWAY MY DISGRACE!

NO, WAIT! UNTIE ME JUST ONE MORE TIME, KONGMING!

WHAT!? IS THIS NOT DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU YOURSELF PROMISED?

SO YOU STILL THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE OF BEATING ME?

I AM NOT AFRAID OF DEATH AND I WILL NEVER SUBMIT! I AM MERELY FRUSTRATED AT MYSELF FOR FALLING FOR YOUR PETTY TRICKS! FIGHT ME ONE MORE TIME!

THUS MARKED THE FOURTH TIME MENG HUO WAS RELEASED.

VERY WELL, I WILL LET YOU GO ONE MORE TIME THEN.

UNTIE HIS ROPES.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

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三国志

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横山 光輝

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